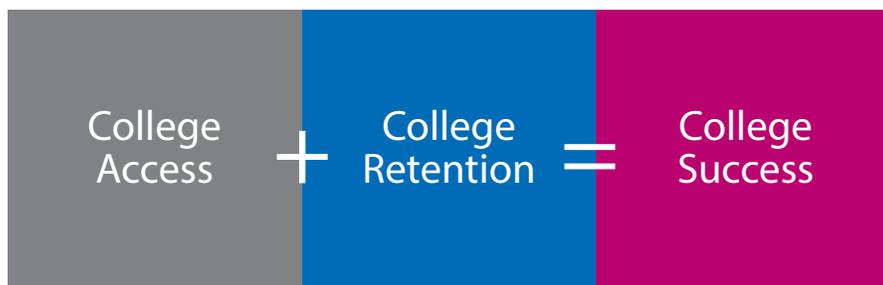


the Sillerman Center

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILANTHROPY

COLLEGE ACCESS AND RETENTION: A Guide to High Impact Investments

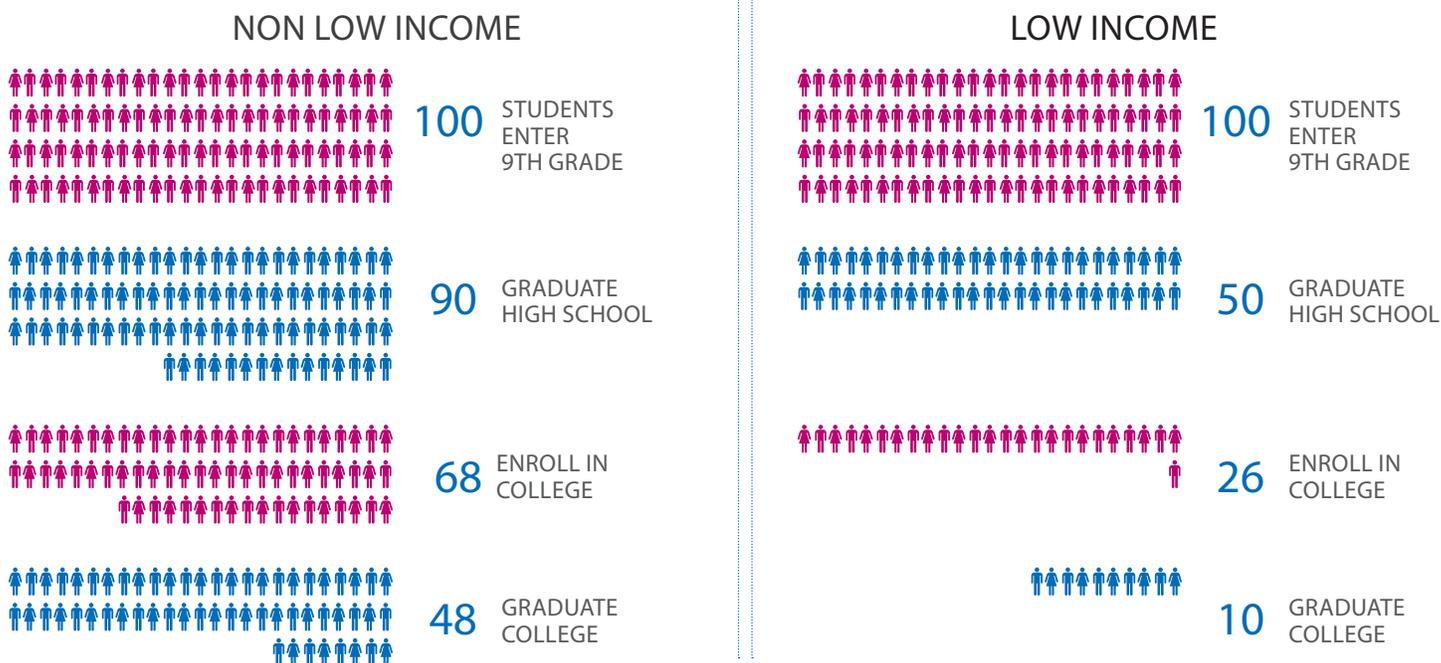


- LIFE SKILLS
- FINANCIAL PLANNING
- TRANSITION SERVICES
- ACADEMIC PREPARATION

College education is a clear and robust response to breaking the poverty cycle. Yet many first generation, underrepresented students of color and low-income students face enormous challenges when it comes to applying to, enrolling in, and graduating from college.*

Education Pipelines**

10-40 percent of accepted students don't matriculate, mostly from low income backgrounds



*For more information see the [Root Cause](#) report on College Access and Success

** Completion rate in 2008-2009. Low income refers to the bottom 20% of all family incomes. Currently, this means that a family of 4 earns less than \$45,000/year. For more information see the [White House Call to Action](#) on Increasing College Opportunity for Low-Income Students.

What is a Strong College Access and Retention Program?

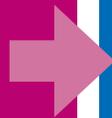
- PRIORITIZES underrepresented students of color, first generation and low-income students and their families
- WORKS THROUGH THE PIPELINE to address college access, persistence and graduation challenges
- BUILDS college aspirations and knowledge while addressing financial aid concerns and barriers
- PROVIDES INTENSIVE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE before and while students are in college to ensure that they persist and graduate
- USES DATA and focuses on outcomes to inform work



High Performing Programs Should Aim to Address the Following Areas:

ACADEMIC AND COLLEGE PREPARATION

- Referrals for academic enrichment/tutoring
- Early awareness about college options and process
- Guidance in course selection
- Assistance with college list building and applications
- Teach problem solving skills
- Financial planning and help filling out all financial aid applications
- Information on financial literacy including budgeting and managing debt



TRANSITION SUPPORT

- Assistance with adjustment to culture shock in college
- Follow through with registration and enrollment paperwork
- Support with housing arrangements
- Improving college ready skills
- Supporting multicultural cohort teams



COLLEGE RETENTION SUPPORT

- Assistance with major and course selection
- Check ins with students on academic progress
- Consistent emotional support
- Connections to support services
- Teach self advocacy
- Provide connections to support services

While not all programs will successfully address each of these areas, high performing programs should aim to focus on as many as possible. When programs are successful, we should see higher college access and retention.

For more information please visit:

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