

Over the last decade, major transfer efforts have focused on impacting articulation policies and improving student experiences, but barriers impacting transfer students persist while racial equity gaps have widened. Research shows that transfer enrollment and completion declines disproportionately affect students from low-income backgrounds and Black, Latinx and Indigenous students. Inconsistent policies and practices at the institutional and state level lead to students taking excess credits, spending more time and money, and losing their sense of belonging on campus. ECMC Foundation launched the Catalyzing Transfer Initiative (CTI) to achieve more equitable outcomes for today's community college students who seek to complete a bachelor's degree.



Research shows **80%** of students enrolled in public two-year institutions aim to earn a bachelor's degree.



But, only **15%** of students who start at community college earn a bachelor's degree within **six years**.

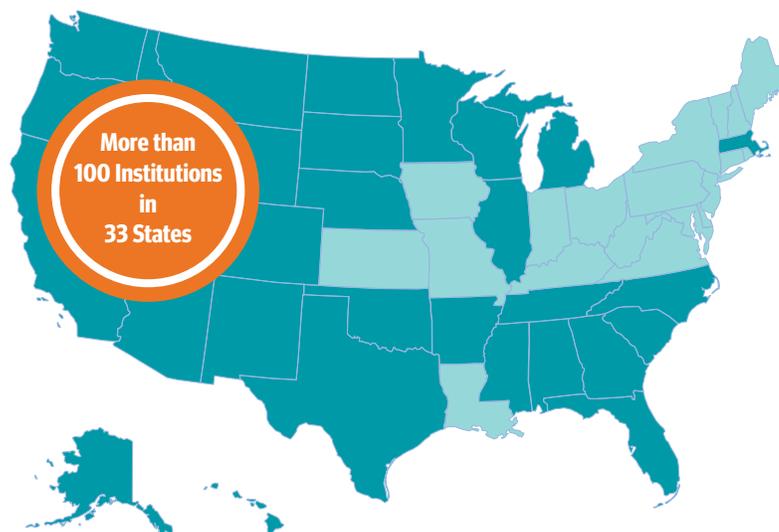


Students lose **43%** of credits upon transferring, on average.

**At this rate, of the more than 4.5 million students enrolled in public community college in Spring 2021, fewer than 800,000 will earn a bachelor's degree.\***

## Powering Transfer Nationwide

The Catalyzing Transfer Initiative is powering large-scale projects across the nation to eliminate barriers and clear pathways between two- and four-year programs. Our grantees are working with more than 100 institutions, higher education leaders and policymakers in 33 states.



 States involved in the initiative

\* 2021 National Student Clearinghouse

4.5 million



5 Leading Organizations

CTI Partners meet continuously to share progress and successful practices from the field.



## DRIVING INSTITUTION-LEVEL REFORM

### American Association of Community Colleges

#### **Equity Transfer Initiative**

The American Association of Community Colleges is pursuing an equity-based approach to establish and expand transfer pathways between two- and four-year institutions in partnership with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

### Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

#### **Interstate Transfer Passport**

The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education is expanding the number of institutions enrolled into the Interstate Passport® Network, a national network of institutions and states that agree to accept transfer of lower-division general education attainment as a block (Passports) based on student learning outcomes.



## INFLUENCING STATEWIDE CHANGE

### Institute for Higher Education Policy

#### **Transfer BOOST**

The Institute for Higher Education Policy is supporting institutions and state partners in Arizona, Illinois and Virginia in creating Transfer Affordability Guarantees (TAGs) in partnership with HCM Strategists. TAGs are equity-centered pathways that ensure students can complete a bachelor's degree in a timely manner by supporting students through a mapped pathway, guaranteeing that all credits apply to completion, and clearly defining and communicating cost and time-to-degree.

### State Higher Education Executive Officers Association

#### **Transfer Policy Standards for Equitable Attainment**

The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association is assisting Colorado, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Washington leaders as they develop and adopt state- and system-wide transfer standards in partnership with the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education.



## INFORMING THE NATIONWIDE LANDSCAPE

### Education Commission of the States

#### **Identifying Opportunities in the Transfer Policy and Practice Reform Space**

In addition to facilitating regular meetings, the Education Commission of the States has developed a report on national transfer reform efforts and outcomes to help the CTI learning community advance best practices.

### The Aspen Institute

#### **Learning Partner**

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program joins the CTI meetings to share lessons from the Transfer Student Success and Equity Intensive, its partnership with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to advance transfer partnership strategy and practice.