



Your education policy team

700 Broadway, Suite 810
Denver, CO 80203-3442
303.299.3600
Fax: 303.296.8332
E-mail: ecs@ecs.org
www.ecs.org
[@EdCommission](https://twitter.com/EdCommission)

ECS OFFICERS: 2015-17

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Reverse Transfer: The path less traveled

Boosting college completion rates is an issue on the minds of many policymakers around the nation. States, the business community and other interested parties agree -- more students need to earn a college degree if workforce demands of the 21st century are to be met.

Reverse transfer is one innovative way education leaders are addressing the challenge. Through reverse transfer policies and programs, students can combine credits they earned at two- and four-year institutions to be awarded an associate degree while also working toward a bachelor's degree.

A [new report](#) from Education Commission of the States defines reverse transfer and explores how states and organizations might use the policy as one approach to support increasing degree completion.

"In the past 20 years, more than 31 million students have left higher education with some credits yet no degree or certificate," said Lexi Anderson, a policy analyst for Education Commission of the States. "States have the opportunity to support those students in their academic goals and reverse transfer policies provide an option for awarding these students a credential."

Some takeaways from the report:

- Reverse transfer is the process by which a student is awarded an associate degree after transferring and completing degree requirements at a four-year institution.
- Seven states have legislation creating reverse transfer, including Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon and Texas.
- Typically students are required to reach a certain number of combined credits between the two-year and four-year institutions while meeting all requirements for the associate degree.

For questions, contact ECS Director of Communications Amy Skinner at askinner@ecs.org or (303) 299. 3609.