

Higher Education Policy and the States

A Review of the
2019 Legislative Sessions

Tuesday, September 24

1 PM – 2 PM ET

Agenda

- Higher Education Appropriations and State Financial Aid
- Student Loan Debt and State Promise Programs
- Community Colleges
- Connecting Postsecondary and Workforce Development
- Combating Campus Sexual Assault
- Free Speech on Campus
- 2020 Outlook
- Questions

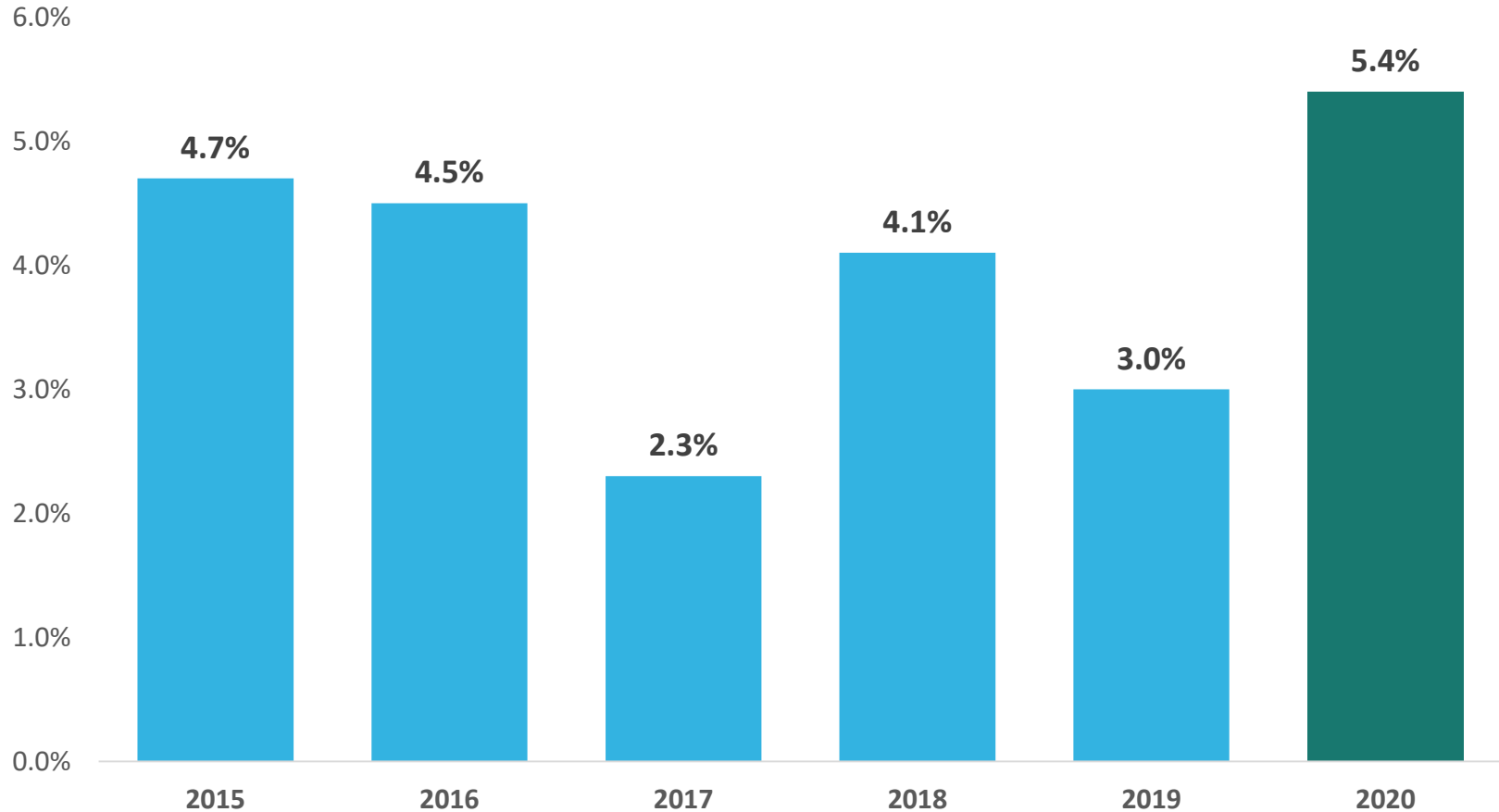
Higher Education Appropriations State Financial Aid Programs

Dustin Weeden, Senior Policy Analyst

State Higher Education Executive
Officers Association

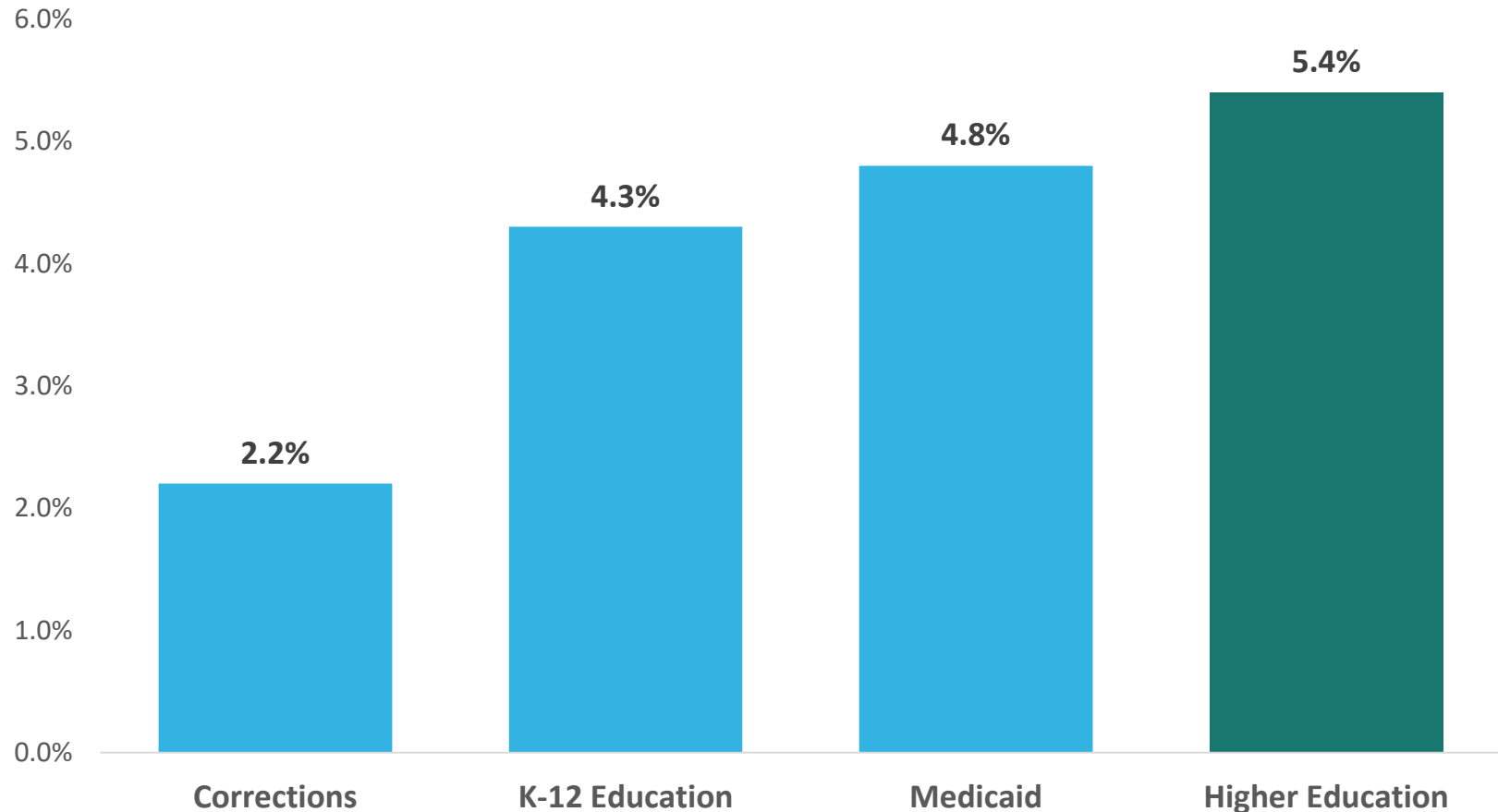
HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

State Higher Education General Fund Expenditures, FY 2015 - 2020



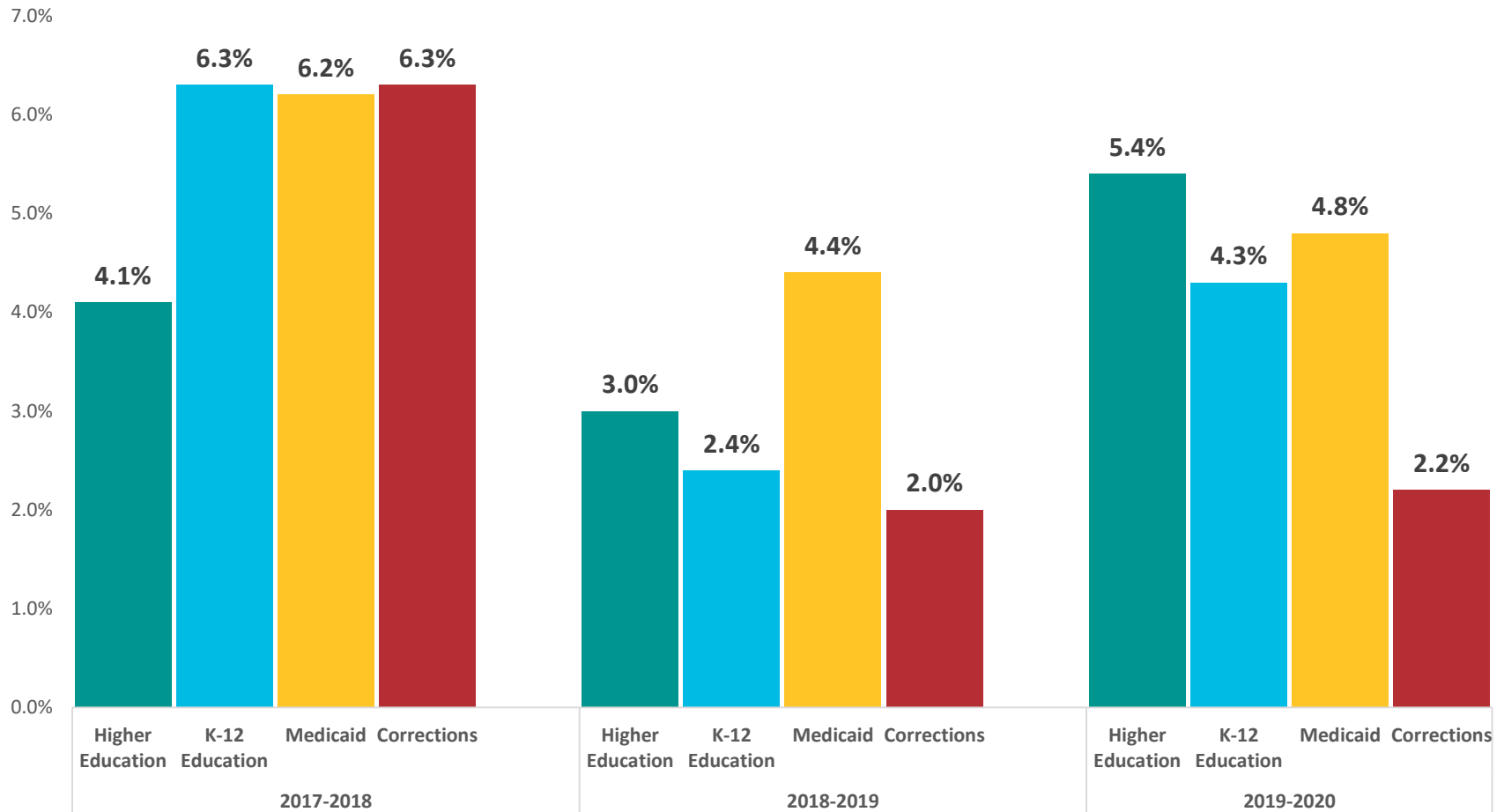
Source: NCSL survey of legislative fiscal offices

Percent Increase in State Expenditures by General Fund Category, FY 2019 to 2020



Source: NCSL survey of legislative fiscal offices

Percent Increase in State Expenditures by General Fund Category, FY17-18, FY18-19, and FY19-20



Source: NCSL survey of legislative fiscal offices

State Budget Trends

- State revenues are generally strong and growing
- Revenue from general sales tax and income tax is expected to be strong in the current fiscal year
- 36 states now collect remote sales tax
- States are still adjusting to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

STATE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

State Financial Aid

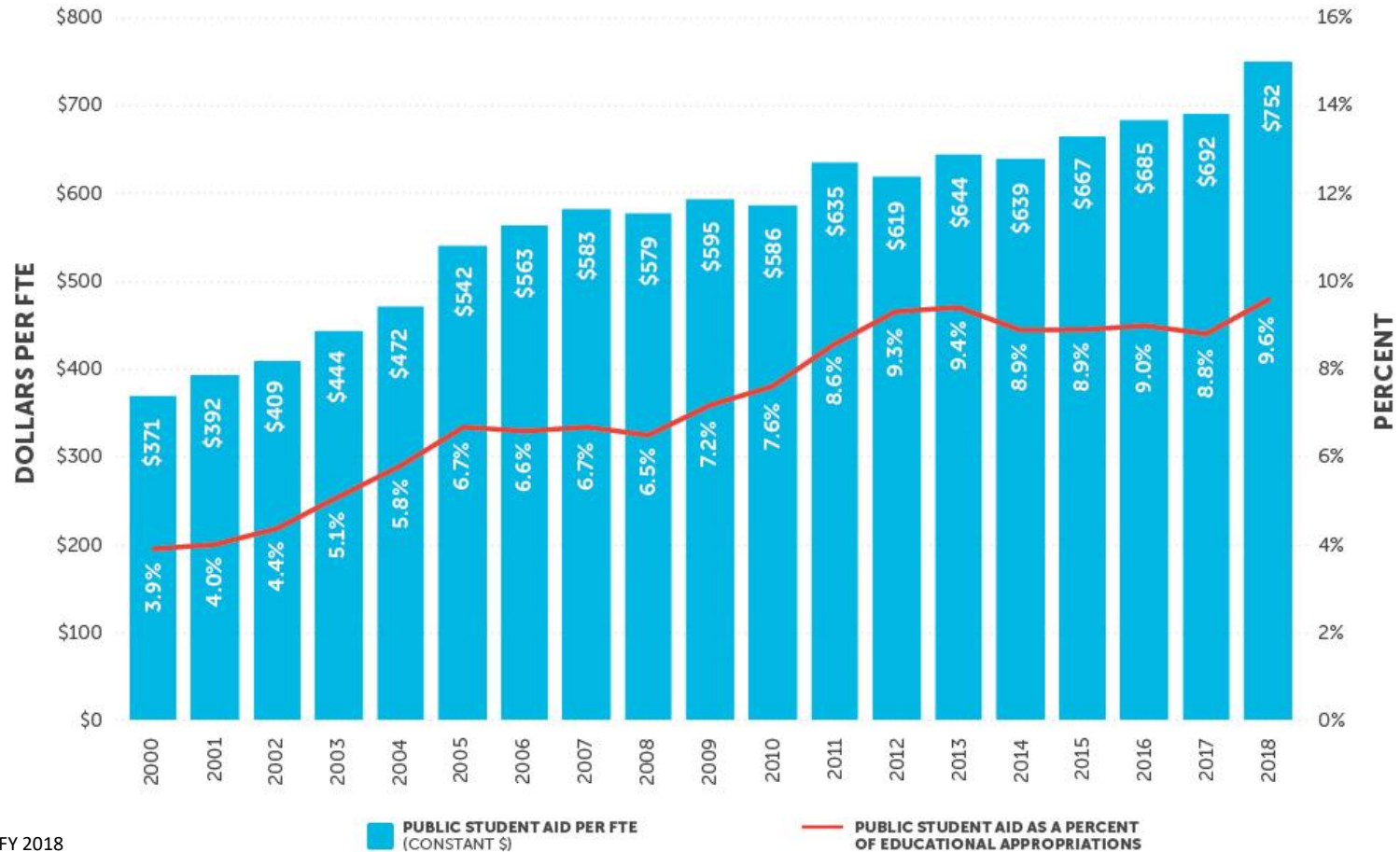
Per-student aid has increased consistently over time:

- 8.7% in the last year
- 30% since the start of the recession
- 102.9% since 2000



Source: SHEEO SHEF FY 2018

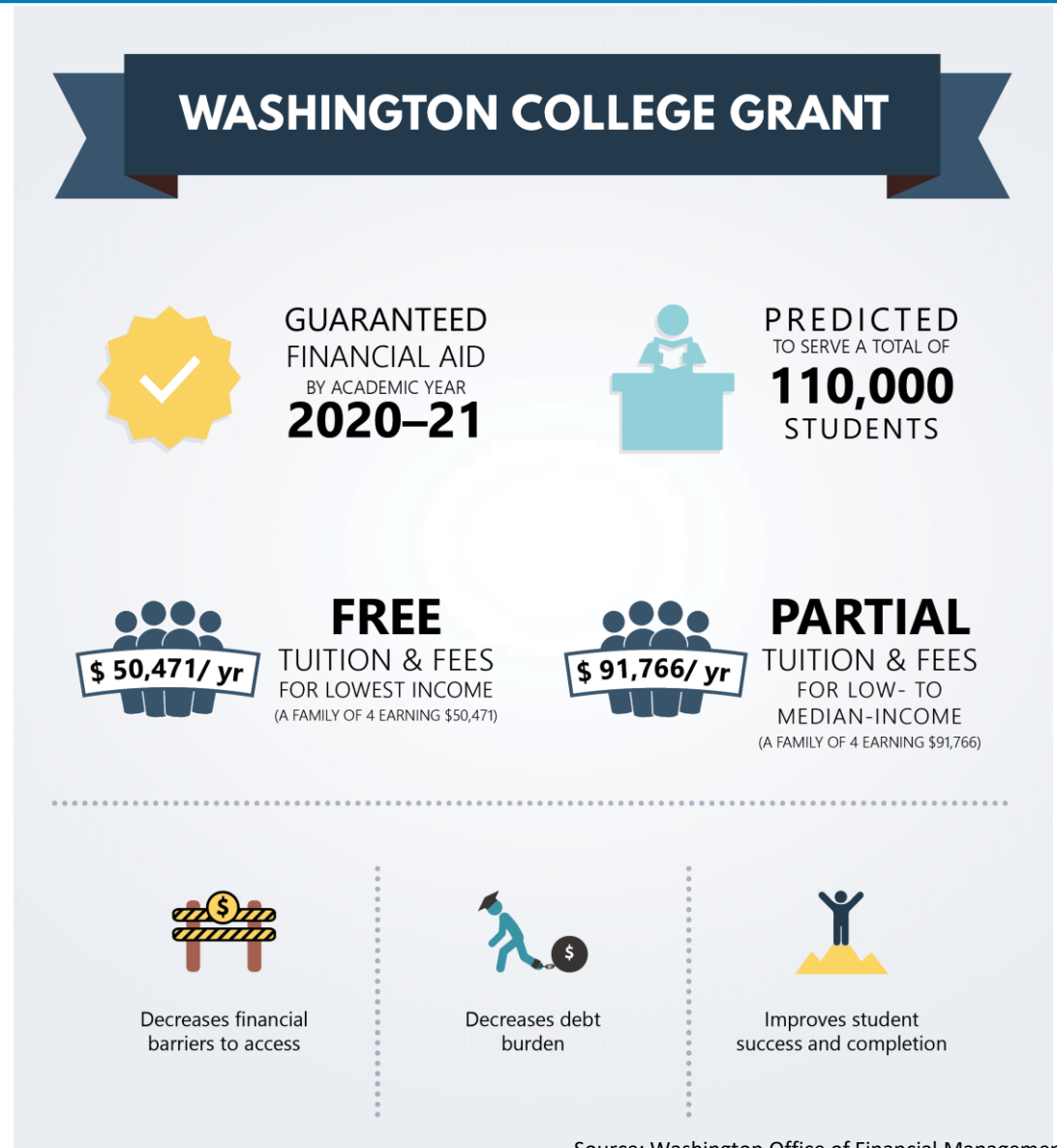
State Financial Aid per FTE and as a Percent of Educational Appropriations



Source: SHEEO SHEF FY 2018

State Financial Aid: Washington College Grant Example

- Guarantees all students from families at or below the state's median family income will receive aid
- Students from families with incomes up to 55% of the median family qualify for maximum awards, which cover tuition and fees
- Adult and part-time students are eligible
- Students seeking vocational certificates and registered apprenticeships are eligible beginning next year



Student Loan Debt & State Promise Programs

Andrew Smalley, Research Analyst I

National Conference of State Legislatures

Student Loan Debt

Background

- ❑ In 2018, collective student loan debt totaled **\$1.5 trillion**
 - ❑ More than **44 million** Americans owe student loan debt
 - ❑ The average student loan debt per borrower is **\$32,731**
- ❑ Nearly **40%** of borrowers are expected to default by 2023
- ❑ Borrowing & default rates vary drastically by institution type

Impact

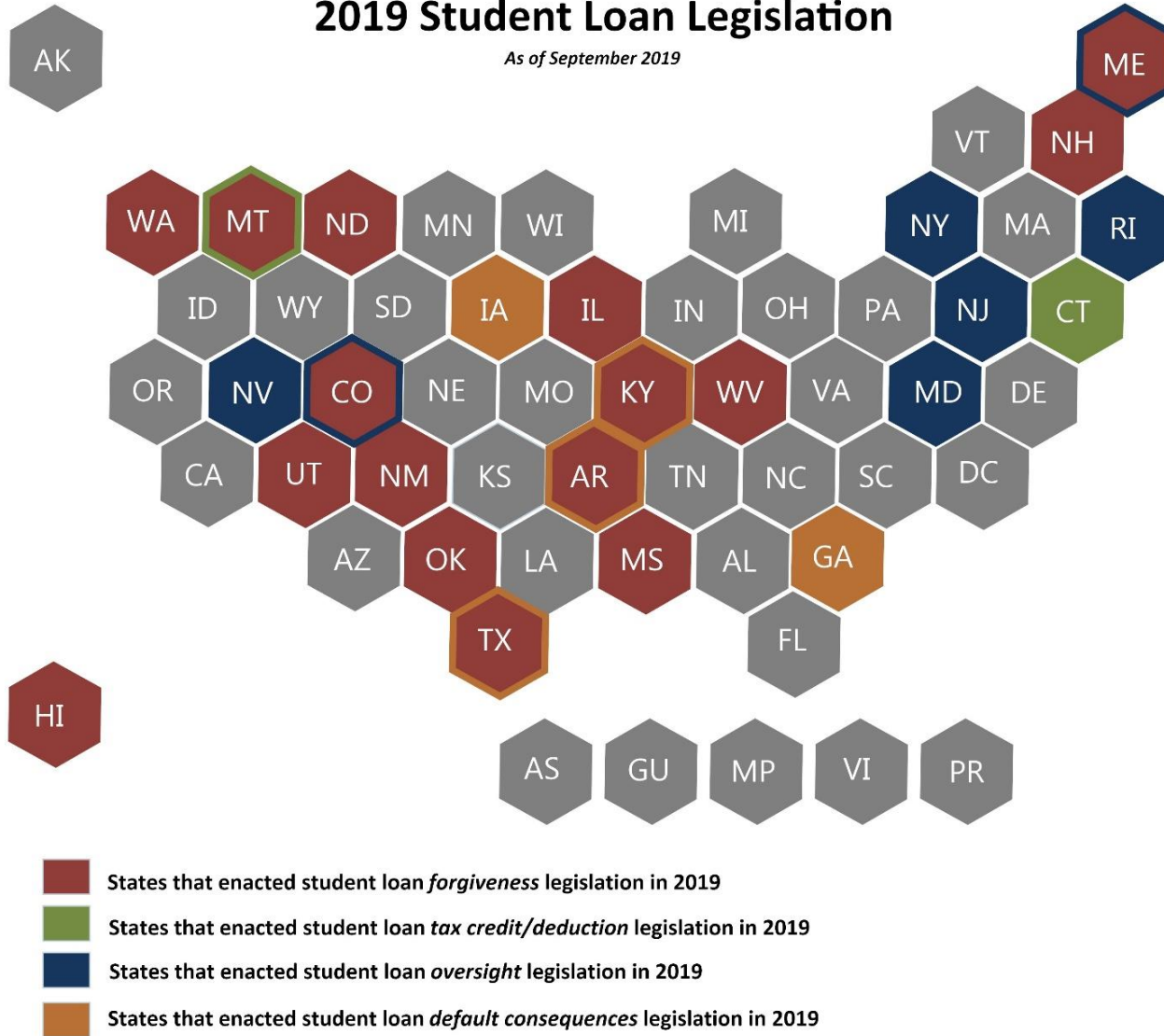
- ❑ According to the Federal Reserve, approximately **20%** of the decline in homeownership among young adults is due to increased student loan debt
- ❑ **2.8 million** Americans over the age of 60 have taken out at least one student loan to support a student

State Action

- ❑ In 2019, NCSL tracked over **275 bills** related to student loans.

2019 Student Loan Legislation

As of September 2019



2019 State Legislation

Student Loan Forgiveness Programs

 147 Introduced

 **21 Enacted**

Student Loan Tax Credit/Deduction

72 Introduced

 **2 Enacted**

Student Loan Oversight

35 Introduced

 **7 Enacted**

Easing Default Consequences

 **9** introduced

 **5 enacted**

Student Loan Forgiveness

Since 2015, **46 bills** related to student loan forgiveness have been enacted in **26 states**.
In 2019, **21 bills** were enacted in **16 states**.

Bills generally offer graduates incentivized loan forgiveness in the following common areas:

- ☐ **Profession-based legislation**

- ☐ Healthcare Professionals

TX HB 2261 – Increases the amount of repayment assistance for the Physician Education Loan Repayment Program

- ☐ Educators

NM HB 275 – Changes the Teacher Loan Repayment Act to more specifically target high-needs teachers, also increases repayment amounts

- ☐ **Residency-based legislation**

NH SB 12 - Establishes the State College Graduate Retention Incentive Partnership

- ☐ **Tax-related legislation**

CT SB 72- Establishes a tax credit for employers that make payments on loans issued to certain employees

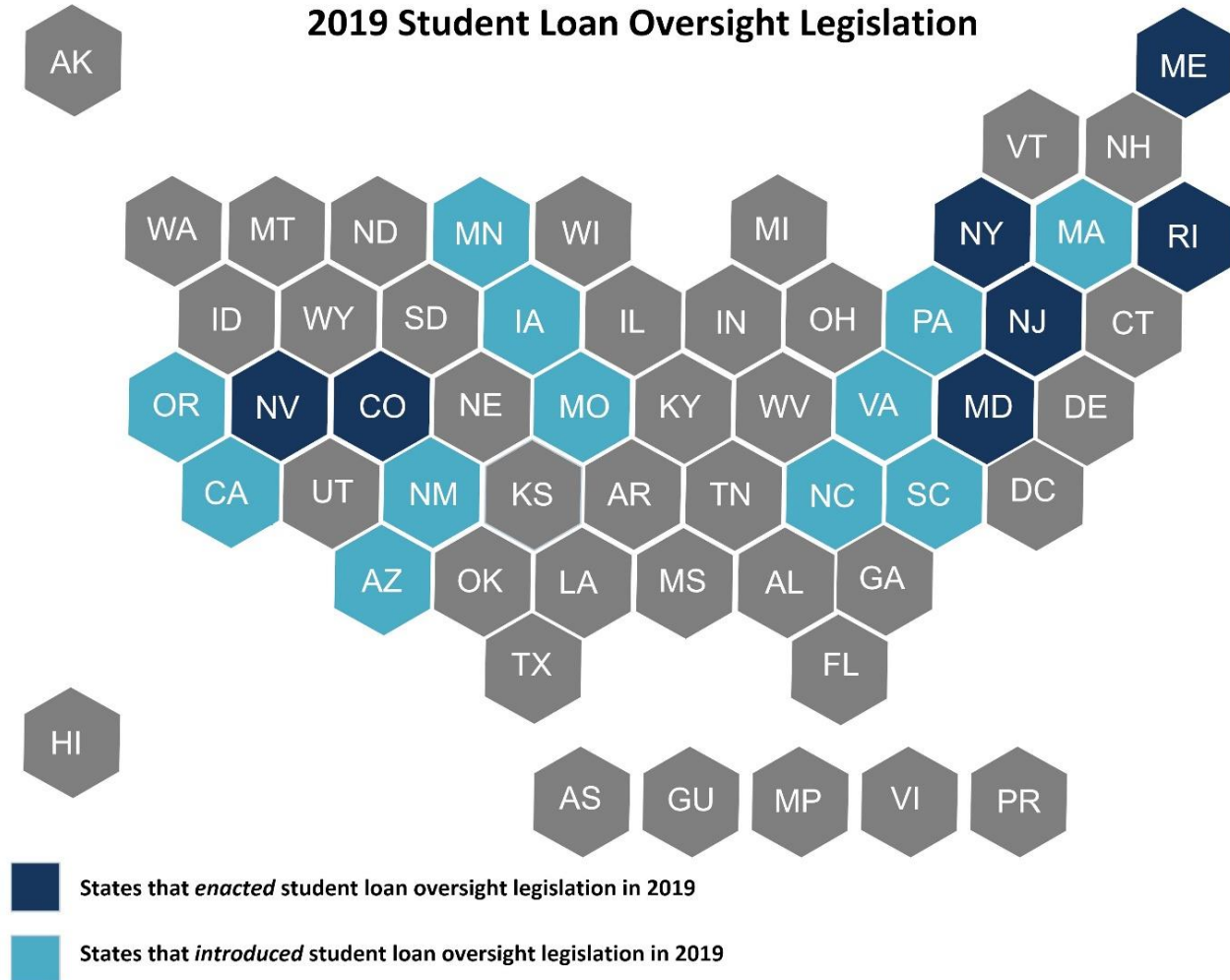
Student Loan Oversight

Since 2015, **13 states** have enacted student loan oversight legislation including:

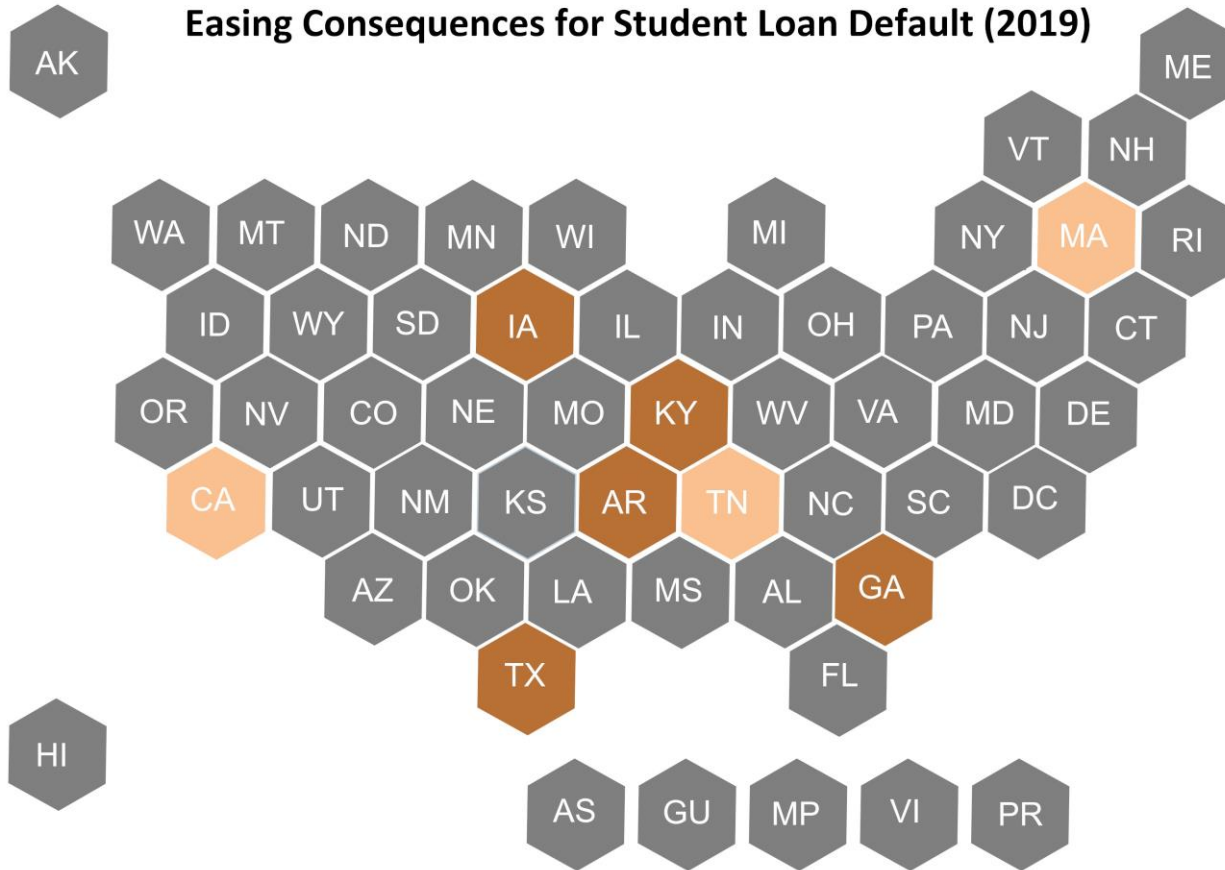
- ❑ Student borrower bill of rights
- ❑ Additional requirements for student loan servicers
- ❑ Creation of student loan ombudsman.

In 2019, **19 states** introduced **26 bills** related to student loan oversight for borrowers. **7 states** enacted student loan oversight legislation in 2019.

2019 Student Loan Oversight Legislation



Easing Consequences for Student Loan Default (2019)



Student Loan Default Consequences

In 2019, **5 states** enacted legislation to modify license suspension laws for students who have defaulted on their student loans.

An additional **4 states** considered legislation.

California **AB 1313**, would prohibit schools from refusing to provide a transcript for a current or former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt.

State Promise Programs

Background

Promise Scholarship Programs are early awareness programs in which a state (or a municipality partnering with local philanthropists and/or businesses) commit to covering in-state public college tuition for students who graduate from the local public high schools.

Promise programs have the following three criteria:

- ☐ A focused goal to increase higher education attainment;
- ☐ A financial award beyond existing federal and state aid to offset the costs of college;
- ☐ A “place-based” student eligibility requirement beyond academic or need-based criteria.

Currently, **18 states and more than 350 localities across 44 states** have some form of a Promise program.

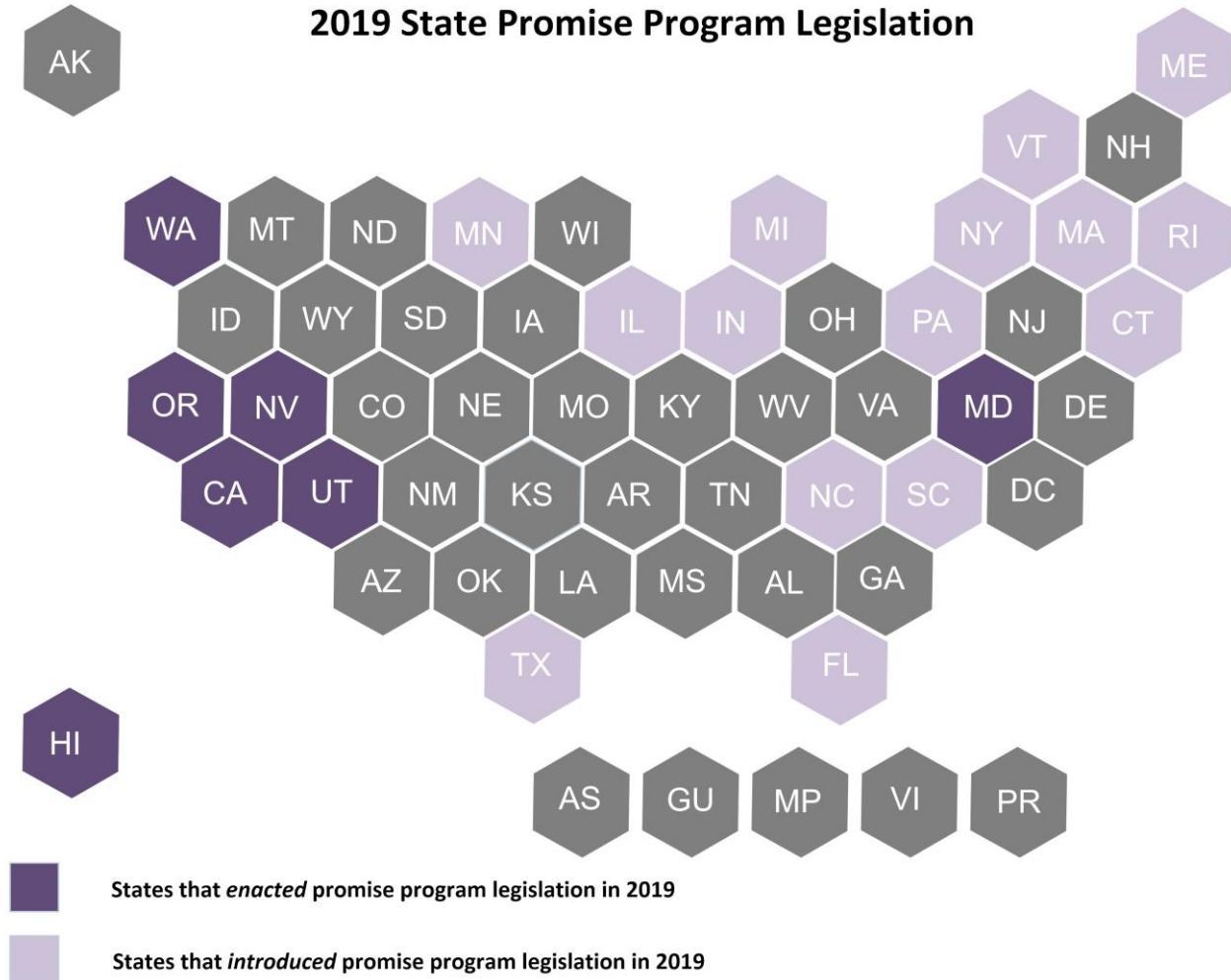
State Promise Programs

In 2019, **22 states** considered legislation related to promise programs and **7 states** enacted legislation addressing a promise program

Common Areas of Promise Program Legislation

- ☐ Creation of new statewide promise program
- ☐ Expansion or modification of existing promise program
- ☐ Inclusion two- or four-year institutions (or both)
- ☐ Modifying program eligibility requirements

2019 State Promise Program Legislation



Community Colleges

Eric Godin, Associate Vice President

State Higher Education Executive
Officers Association

Guided Pathways

Developing a plan for student and career success that extends beyond graduation

4 components:

1. Mapping pathways to student end goals
2. Helping students choose and enter a program pathway
3. Keeping students on path
4. Ensuring students are learning

4 phases of implementation:

1. Laying the groundwork for whole-college redesign
2. Introducing guided pathways to the college community
3. Supporting collaborative planning and implementation
4. Sustaining and institutionalizing student success reforms

[Redesigning Your College Through Guided Pathways: Lessons on Managing Whole-College Reform From the AACC Pathways Project \(Community College Research Center\)](#)

Idealized Timeline for Implementing Guided Pathways at Scale

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

3+ Years Prior to Pathways

- Build capacity to collect, report, and use data
- Develop strategic goals and plan, focused on improving student outcomes
- Implement at least one major innovation at scale

BUILDING A SENSE OF URGENCY

Year 1

- Make the case for change
- Scrutinize current practice from student perspective

INTAKE AND ADVISING REDESIGN

Years 2-3

- Redesign intake to enable students to explore career/academic options and develop full-program plan by end of term 1
- Pilot integrated and contextualized academic support for program gateway courses
- Redesign scheduling and advising to support timely student advancement
- Plan upgrading of business process and IT systems and begin training staff

IMPROVED SCALE IMPLEMENTATION

Years 4-5

- Evaluate and improve pathways implementation
- Build academic and career communities within meta-majors
- Extend program pathways into high schools (start with dual enrollment) and adult ed programs

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

MAPPING PROGRAM PATHWAYS

Year 2

- Organize programs into career-focused meta-majors
- Backward map all programs to jobs and transfer opportunities

INITIAL SCALE IMPLEMENTATION

Year 3

- Begin scale implementation of new student intake, planning, scheduling, and advising
- Reorganize learning outcomes assessment around meta-majors and maps
- Implement IT systems and business processes to support pathways
- Plan extension of program pathways into high schools and adult ed programs

ONGOING IMPROVEMENT

Ongoing

- Institutionalize program review, improvement, and professional development within and across meta-majors

Math Pathways Redesign

Math barriers to student success:

- Long course sequences
- Mismatch of content
- Inaccurate student placement

Four principals for success from the Dana Center Mathematics Pathways Project:

1. All students enter directly into math pathways aligned with their program of study
2. Students complete their first college-level math course in their first year
3. Strategies to support students as learners are integrated into courses and are aligned across the institution.
4. Instruction incorporates evidence-based curriculum and pedagogy.

[The Case for Mathematics Pathways \(Charles A. Dana Center, The University of Texas at Austin\)](#)

[Math Pathways: Expanding Options for Success in College Math \(Education Commission for the States\)](#)

Student Progression Through the Developmental Math Sequence²¹

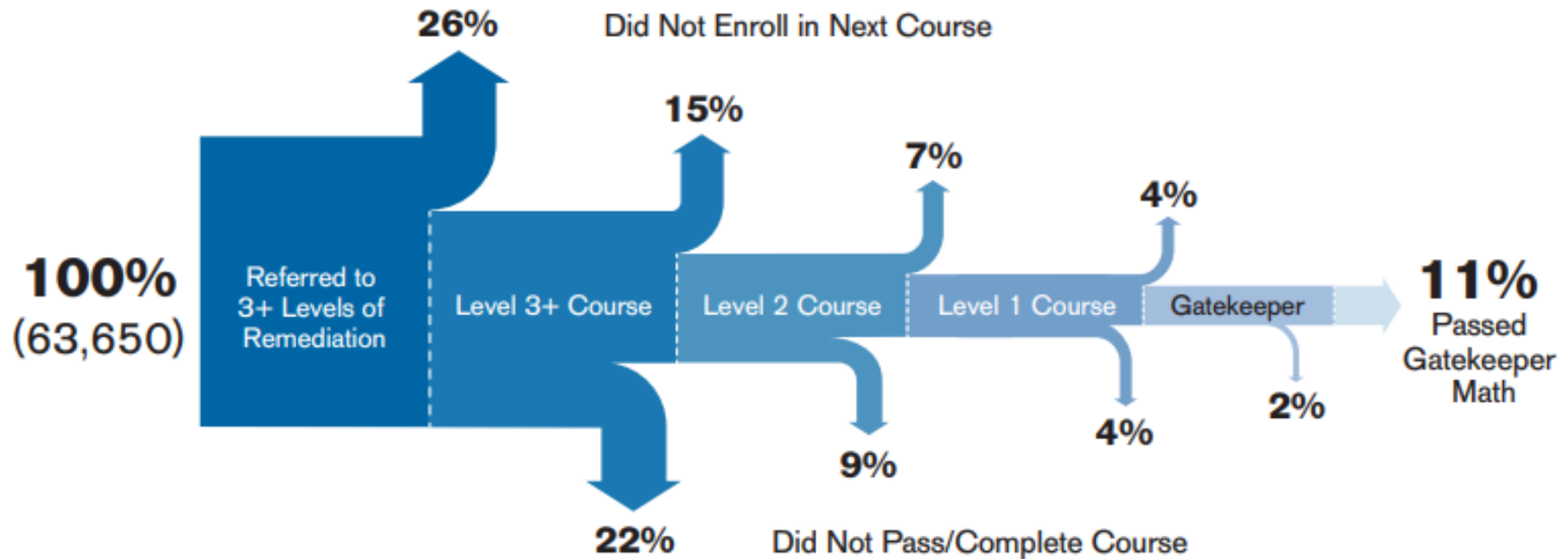


Image Source: *What We Known About Developmental Education Outcomes*, CCRC (2014)

Note 21: Analysis tracked for three years 63,650 first-time, credential-seeking students at 35 Achieving the Dream community colleges who began their enrollment from fall 2006 to fall 2008 and were referred to at least three levels of developmental education. The figure on student progression through the math developmental sequence is updated from analyses originally presented in Bailey, T., Jeong, D. W., & Cho, S. W. (2010). Referral, enrollment, and completion in developmental education sequences in community colleges. *Economics of Education Review*, 29(2), 255–270.

Credential Expansion and Educational Attainment

A steady climb

Lumina tracks the post-high school educational attainment of Americans ages 25-64. Since 2008, that figure has increased by **10 percentage points**. That's progress, but it's not enough to reach 60 percent by 2025. Dramatic action is needed to meet the nation's need for talent.

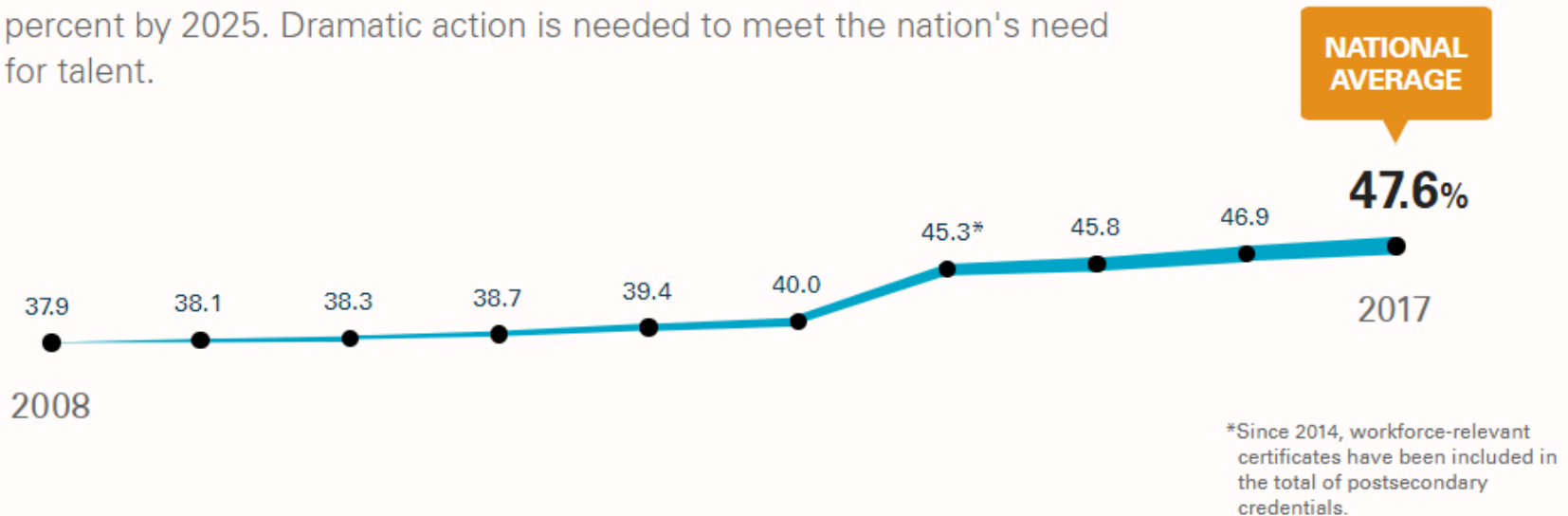


Image Source: Lumina Foundation

[A Stronger Nation \(Lumina Foundation\)](#)

Connecting Postsecondary and Workforce Development

Siri Smillie, Policy Director



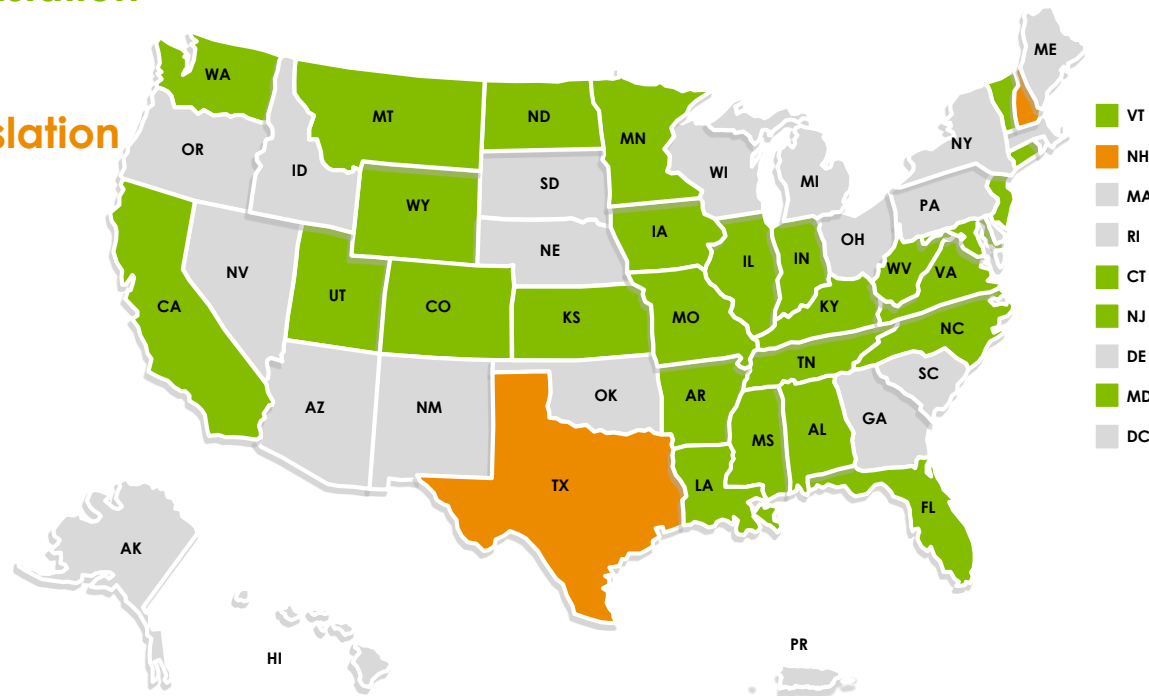
EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

Postsecondary Workforce Development Legislation: 2019 Enacted Legislation

Enacted Legislation
(27 states)

Vetoed Legislation
(2 states)



Postsecondary Workforce Development Legislation: Common Themes

- Partnerships and working groups
- Financial incentives
- Career pathways and skills
 - Career and technical education (CTE)
 - Apprenticeship and work-based learning (WBL)

Postsecondary Workforce Development Legislation: Partnerships and working groups

- Legislation in 2019 required or encouraged more collaboration between education, workforce, and business stakeholders to:
 - Create, align and refine career pathways
 - Coordinate to train workers for in-demand jobs
 - Set postsecondary attainment goals or develop plans to meet attainment goals
- **North Carolina HB 664**
- **Connecticut SB 607**
- **West Virginia HB 2004**

Postsecondary Workforce Development Legislation: Financial incentives

- At least **23 states** passed legislation providing financial incentives to support workforce development needs. These incentives were in the form of:
 - Grants, financial aid, or loan forgiveness for students pursuing degrees or certifications in high-demand areas
 - Funding to institutions for program development or equipment
 - Tax credits or other incentives for employers supporting worker training
- **Mississippi SB 3015**
- **Montana SB 60**
- **Wyoming SF 122**

Postsecondary Workforce Development Legislation: Career pathways and skills

- 2019 legislative activity relating to career pathways included:
 - the creation of targeted programs or recruitment strategies for a specific population,
 - creation of credential programs, and
 - connecting postsecondary education and work-based learning to workforce development needs.
- **Colorado HB 19-1294**
- **Alabama SB 295**
- **Tennessee HB 740/SB 1259**

Campus Safety and Free Speech

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Director of State Relations and Policy Analysis

American Association of State Colleges and
Universities

Combating Campus Sexual Assault

- Sweeping measures in Texas to crack down on campus sexual assault and misconduct
 - College and university employees who don't report misconduct to Title IX coordinators could be charged with a misdemeanor & face termination
 - Transcript notations for students removed from campus for non-academic reasons
 - Clear definitions of inappropriate behavior now in state law
 - The new Texas laws could conflict with new Title IX regulations set to be released later this year
- Pennsylvania's colleges and universities will soon create an online portal for anonymous reporting of sexual assault.
- In Louisiana, a new law will require institutions of higher education to issue campus climate surveys every three years in order to increase the number of students completing the form.
- Utah's institutions of higher education must now create campus safety plans that spell out the rights of victims of sexual assault, dating violence and domestic violence.
- Utah also approved legislation describing when an institution can turn over information to law enforcement authorities in cases of sexual violence where they find an "articulable and significant" threat on campus, even if the victim has not approved of them information. The bill maintains confidentiality of the victim, provides notice to the victim of engagement with law enforcement, and limits shared information.

Free Speech on Campus

- Free speech bills have been introduced and approved in several states over the past few years
- Campus free speech bills approved in the 2019 legislative sessions in Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kentucky, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas
- Montana's governor vetoed a free speech bill
- Generally, the free speech bills restate current case law, but some also prohibit “free speech zones” on college campuses.

2019 Higher Education Government Relations Conference



AASCU/APLU/AACC/CASE

2019 Higher Education Government Relations Conference

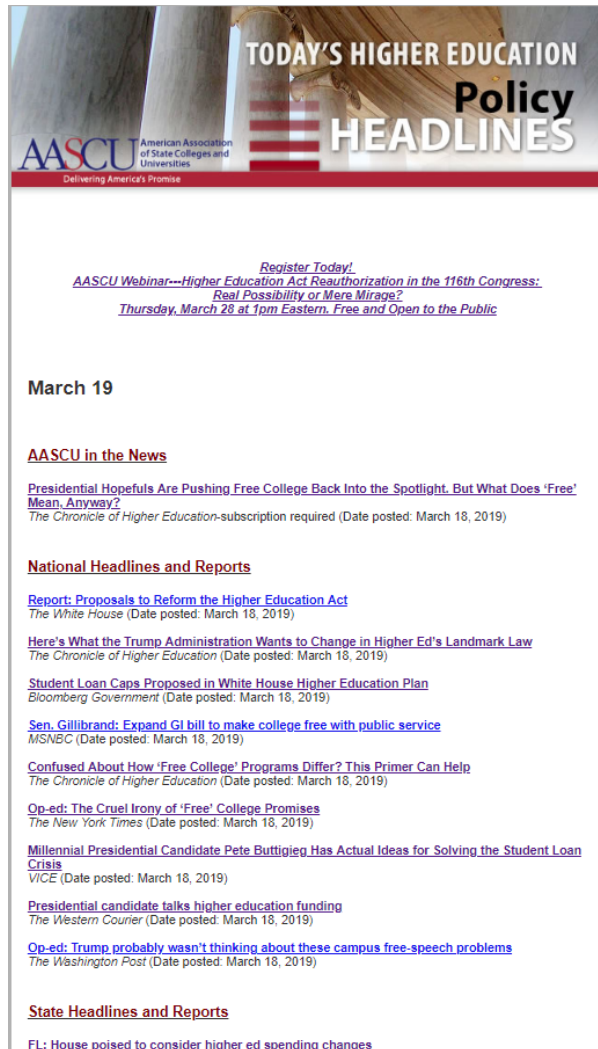
December 4-6, 2019

New Orleans, Louisiana

For more information

<http://www.aascu.org/meetings/hegrc19>

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TODAY'S HIGHER EDUCATION Policy HEADLINES

AASCU American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Delivering America's Promise

[Register Today!](#)
[AASCU Webinar---Higher Education Act Reauthorization in the 116th Congress: Real Possibility or Mere Mirage?](#)
[Thursday, March 28 at 1pm Eastern. Free and Open to the Public](#)

March 19

AASCU in the News

[Presidential Hopefuls Are Pushing Free College Back Into the Spotlight. But What Does 'Free' Mean, Anyway?](#)
The Chronicle of Higher Education-subscription required (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

National Headlines and Reports

[Report: Proposals to Reform the Higher Education Act](#)
The White House (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Here's What the Trump Administration Wants to Change in Higher Ed's Landmark Law](#)
The Chronicle of Higher Education (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Student Loan Caps Proposed in White House Higher Education Plan](#)
Bloomberg Government (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Sen. Gillibrand: Expand GI bill to make college free with public service](#)
MSNBC (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Confused About How 'Free College' Programs Differ? This Primer Can Help](#)
The Chronicle of Higher Education (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Op-ed: The Cruel Irony of 'Free' College Promises](#)
The New York Times (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Millennial Presidential Candidate Pete Buttigieg Has Actual Ideas for Solving the Student Loan Crisis](#)
VICE (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Presidential candidate talks higher education funding](#)
The Western Courier (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

[Op-ed: Trump probably wasn't thinking about these campus free-speech problems](#)
The Washington Post (Date posted: March 18, 2019)

State Headlines and Reports

[FL: House poised to consider higher ed spending changes](#)



Subscription Link:

<http://www.aascu.org/policy/publications/subscriptionform/>

2020 Outlook

- No major leadership shifts: Only three gubernatorial elections and four states with regular legislative elections in 2019
- Less movement on big ticket funding items
- More on the topics of campus safety and free speech

Questions?

Presenter Contact Information

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