



Helping Students Navigate Pathways to Adult Success Toolkit

RECOMMENDATION 4: PERSISTENCE

It will help students develop the persistence and resilience needed for success in postsecondary training, occupations, and life.

SUPPORT FOR POSTSECONDARY PERSISTENCE

There is some consensus on ways the community, educational institutions, and employers can support students for success in first two years of postsecondary life. A short list of these recommendations follows; stakeholders should also collect and analyze data to hold themselves and students accountable for outcomes and to analyze root causes for these outcomes. This analysis will enable stakeholders to monitor and continuously improve supports for young adults' success, to their benefit and that of the community.

Recommended actions include:

- Help students [navigate across institutional boundaries](#) as they transition from high school into college: attending information and orientation sessions, learning about tutoring, mentoring, credit options, and choosing a major. Between high school and college, young people are under the purview of neither institution (unless enrolled in a summer bridge program), so collaboration is crucial. Except in the most selective institutions, twenty percent of those who accept admissions offers fail to register in the fall.
- Support immediately career-bound students in the transition into work-force expectations and skills.
- Provide and require mentoring/tutoring and co-requisite courses as needed for first-year college students.
- Monitor data to identify students encountering difficulties promptly and get advisors to them. Advisors can be peer- or near-peer mentors: third- and fourth-year students who have succeeded in their disciplines and understand the barriers that first-timers encounter. Ensure in advance that needed human and technological capacities are in place. Offer incentives to potential mentors (e.g., part of practicum or internship course credit, federal work/study, or other campus opportunities), as well as training and support.



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- Provide small bridge grants/loans, depending on state law, to cover gaps between scholarships and loans, unexpected life and family incidents, and tuition and fees due immediately. These are usually less than \$750.
- Work with community, education, and business collaborators to learn about young people's experiences during the first two years after high school. Align with higher education and business organizations to gather valid data and work together to develop indicators of college and career persistence in the first two years.

LIFE & SOCIAL SKILLS FOR ADULT SUCCESS

There are multiple types of learning that are beyond the academic content taught in class, yet essential for students to become responsible, well-rounded adults. [Read More](#)