

The Go to High School, Go to College Act

This bipartisan, bicameral proposal offered by Representatives Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) and Chris Gibson (R-NY), along with Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mark Warner (D-VA), would improve secondary and postsecondary outcomes for students and maximize the efficiency of federal student aid.

The *Go to High School, Go to College Act* would allow Pell grant funding for eligible students to be used for transferable college credits, including core general education requirements, that students complete in an early college program offered by an accredited Institution of Higher Education (IHE).

Early colleges would be reimbursed for the cost of tuition and fees on behalf of eligible students retroactively based on college credits completed up to an associate's degree or four semesters of college coursework.

The Problem

- Currently, too many students enrolled in postsecondary education do not earn credentials or degrees. The nation needs to invest wisely in strategies like early college that produce strong postsecondary outcomes for students, including low-income and underrepresented students.
- Given the resounding results from early colleges, particularly among low-income and underrepresented students, these programs could benefit many more students across the nation if taken to scale.
- However, the biggest challenge for the sustainability and scalability of tuition-free early is that in most states there is no state or federal support to assist in covering the tuition costs of the college courses, which include faculty salaries, professional development, the costs of college texts and library resources, and college-level learning facilities.
- Growth of early colleges has been stifled by rising tuition costs that are unaffordable for students and too great to be assumed by sponsoring high school and college partners. The federal government should allow greater flexibility within the need-based Pell grant program to increase opportunities for students to earn college credits and degrees.

Early College Program Benefits

- Expanding access to early college high schools will increase college completion rates and ultimately reduce the time and cost of earning a college degree.
- Rigorous research studies, such as those conducted by the American Institutes for Research, Community College Research Center at Columbia University, ACT, and a half dozen states show early college students, including low-income and first-generation college students, are significantly more likely to enroll in college and complete college degrees than comparison students who do not take college courses while in high school.

Benefits of Go to High School, Go to College Act

- This proposal would allow tuition-free early colleges to be sustained and scaled nationally to serve more students, thereby increasing college access and helping more low-income students afford and complete college degrees. Due to the higher college completion rates and the faster time to degree, we believe this proposal would save money for the Pell Grant program.