



# STICKY FACTS *on* COLLEGE COMPLETION

Colleges only graduate 36% of Black students and 27% of Hispanic students, compared to 47% of their white peers. These gaps have remained stagnant or grown larger over the last 20 years.

Students who start college but don't finish face the worst outcomes—borrowers who leave school with debt and no degree are three times more likely to default on student loans than those who graduate.

College completion is a key driver in ensuring students are able to pay down their educational debt. Those who graduate can generally pay back their loans. Those who don't are more likely to struggle with repayment.

We have a leaky pipeline in higher education: College's graduate only about half of all students that they enroll.

Evidence-based college completion programs, such as CUNY ASAP, increase graduation rates, and student earnings upon graduation for underserved students by providing wraparound support services to get them across the finish line to a college degree.

Only 6 in 10 students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.

Getting students to college is not enough; we must also help them get through college and gain the skills they need to find good jobs and pay off their loans.

As a nation, we've made important strides in improving access and affordability for students in higher education, and an investment in completion is long overdue. The College Completion Fund focuses on scaling evidence-based programs to improve retention and completion at institutions with an above average number of historically underserved students.

College completion is tied to increased employment, higher earnings, decreased likelihood of poverty, and more. Focusing on increasing college completion will lead to overall better outcomes.