



# Utilizing Indiana's Scholar Success Program as a Key Strategy in GEAR UP College-Readiness

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# About the 21st Century Scholarship

- Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program
  - Founded in 1990
  - Provides up to four years of tuition assistance at an Indiana public, private, and proprietary institution
- Our Scholars:
  - Enter college at higher rates (81% of Scholars vs. 65% all Indiana students)
  - However, graduate at lower rates (25% on-time and 38% time-and-a-half vs. 32% on-time and 47% time-and-a-half for all Indiana students)



# The Response

## Legislation passed in 2011-2012:

- Raised minimum high school GPA from 2.0 to 2.5
- Required Core 40 diploma as minimum
- Established Scholar Success Program
- Created credit completion benchmarks at college level



# Scholar Success Program

- **Developed by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Advisory Council:**
  - K-12 and Higher Education
  - Business and Community Organizations
  - Government and Philanthropic Partners
- **Guiding Questions for All Requirements:**
  - Is it Meaningful?
  - Is it Measurable?
  - Is it Accessible?



# Program Milestones

1990

Indiana creates 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program

1995

First 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars enroll in college

2011

Indiana creates **Scholar Success Program**

2012

**ScholarCorps** launches at 10 college campuses (23 in 2018)

2013

Indiana creates **credit completion requirements** for all state financial aid recipients, including 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars

2015

First Scholars required to graduate high school with a **2.5 GPA**

2017

First high school class required to complete **Scholar Success Program**

2018

State extends **Scholar Success Program** to college level



# Scholar Success Program (High School Level)



# Scholar Success Program



GRADE	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES		
09	Create a Graduation Plan <sup>1</sup>	Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity	Watch "Paying for College 101"
10	Take a Career Interests Assessment	Get Workplace Experience <sup>2</sup>	Estimate the Costs of College
11	Visit a College Campus	Take a College Entrance Exam (ACT/SAT)	Search for Scholarships <sup>3</sup>
12	Submit Your College Application	Watch "College Success 101"	File Your FAFSA

1. Plan should be updated annually to keep students on track for high school graduation and college admission.
2. Includes job shadowing, internship, part-time employment, interviewing a professional or related experience linked to a student's career aspirations.
3. Includes any additional scholarship opportunities beyond the 21st Century Scholarship.



# Create a Graduation Plan

- All students in Indiana must have a graduation plan, or four-year plan
- Keeps students on track for graduation
- Helps students explore different electives and pathways



# Participate in an Extracurricular or Service Activity

- Students learn how to manage their time and how to prioritize
- Students develop leadership and social skills
- Helps students explore interests outside of the classroom



# Watch “Paying for College 101”

- Helps students and families understand what they need to know and how to pay for college
- Discusses why college is important and how to pay for it
- Discusses different kinds of expenses associated with college



# Take a Career Interests Assessment

- Online tool that asks a series of questions to help students identify career interests
- A variety of online options, like Indiana Career Explorer



# Get Workplace Experience

- Designed to have students explore career options early
- Can be in the form of internships, job shadowing or an interview
- Does not have to be employment



# Watch “Estimating the Costs of College”

- Demonstrates the Indiana College Costs Estimator
- Explains the difference between gift aid and self-help aid
- Discusses student loans and options to help avoid having to borrow



# Visit a College Campus

- Allows students to tour campuses and explores classes
- Helps students get a feel
- Can include housing and dining centers
- Can be on-campus or virtual



# Take a College Entrance Exam

- Required for almost all four-year colleges
- Accepted at community colleges and regional campuses
- Often required for scholarship applications



# Search for Scholarships

- Explore options in advance
- Help students make a calendar of application deadlines
- Search local, state and national scholarship programs
- Write personal statements



# Submit Your College Application

- Be aware of early deadlines
- Discuss the required information students need to complete the application
- Prepare an admissions essay and ask for letters of recommendation in advance



# Watch “College Success 101”

- Prepares students for college
- Shows students how to succeed academically and how to get the most out of campus life



# File Your FAFSA

- All seniors should file the FAFSA before the Indiana FAFSA
- Available between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> each year
- Required for students to be eligible for state, federal and most institutional aid





# Scholar Success Program (College Level)



# Key Questions

- **Are these still the right guiding questions?**
  - Is it **meaningful**?
  - Is it **measurable**?
  - Is it **accessible**?
- **What changes would be most impactful at the postsecondary level (and what should it look like)?**
  - Current: **Credit Completion, FAFSA, SAP**
  - Format: **Annual or cumulative?**
  - Focus: **Career Preparation?**





# Best-Practice Research



# American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)

## High-Impact Practices

*First-Year*    *Senior*

Learning community



Service-learning



Research with faculty



Internship or field experience



Study abroad



Culminating senior experience



# Gallup-Purdue Index

Three strongest contributing factors to alumni well-being:

- 1) Graduated from college on time**
- 2) Had a mentor** or professor who made them excited about learning, cared about them as a person
- 3) Engaged in deep, experiential learning:**
  - Internship or job,
  - Long-term school project, or
  - Extracurricular/service activities



# Proposed Goals / Focus Areas

- **College Readiness:** Smooth transition from high school to college, build self-efficacy skills and strengthen connections to campus resources.
- **College Performance:** Ensure students perform academically and stay on track to complete college.
- **Career Readiness:** Build employability skills and smooth transition from education to employment.



# Scholar Success Mentor/Advisor

All 21st Century Scholars—with support from Indiana colleges and the state—will identify at least one campus- and/or community-based mentor/advisor who will help guide them through college completion and into the workforce.



# Final Version

College Scholar Success Program			
YEAR	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES		
	ALL 4 ANNUALLY COLLEGE PERFORMANCE	1+ PER YEAR COLLEGE ENGAGEMENT	1+ PER YEAR CAREER PREPARATION
FIRST YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete 30 Credits Per Year</li> <li>Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)</li> <li>File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</li> <li>Identify 1 Mentor/Champion**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Bridge Program</li> <li>New Student Orientation/ Transfer Student Orientation</li> <li>First-Year Experience</li> <li>Living-Learning Community</li> <li>Campus Involvement*</li> <li>Study Abroad*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informational Interview</li> <li>Job Shadow</li> <li>Professional Resume</li> <li>Portfolio</li> <li>Internship* (or equivalent)</li> <li>Student-Faculty Research*</li> </ul>
SECOND YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete 30 Credits Per Year</li> <li>Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)</li> <li>File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</li> <li>Identify 1 Mentor/Champion**</li> </ul>		
CONTINUING TO A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM**			
THIRD YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete 30 Credits Per Year</li> <li>Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)</li> <li>File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</li> <li>Identify 1 Mentor/Champion**</li> </ul>		
FOURTH YEAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete 30 Credits Per Year</li> <li>Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)</li> <li>File Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</li> <li>Identify 1 Mentor/Champion**</li> </ul>		





# ScholarTrack System



# ScholarTrack Overview

- ScholarTrack is the one-stop shop for Hoosiers' state financial aid needs.
- ScholarTrack guides students and families through the process of applying for and maintaining state-based financial aid—beginning as early as middle school and continuing through college completion.





# Data

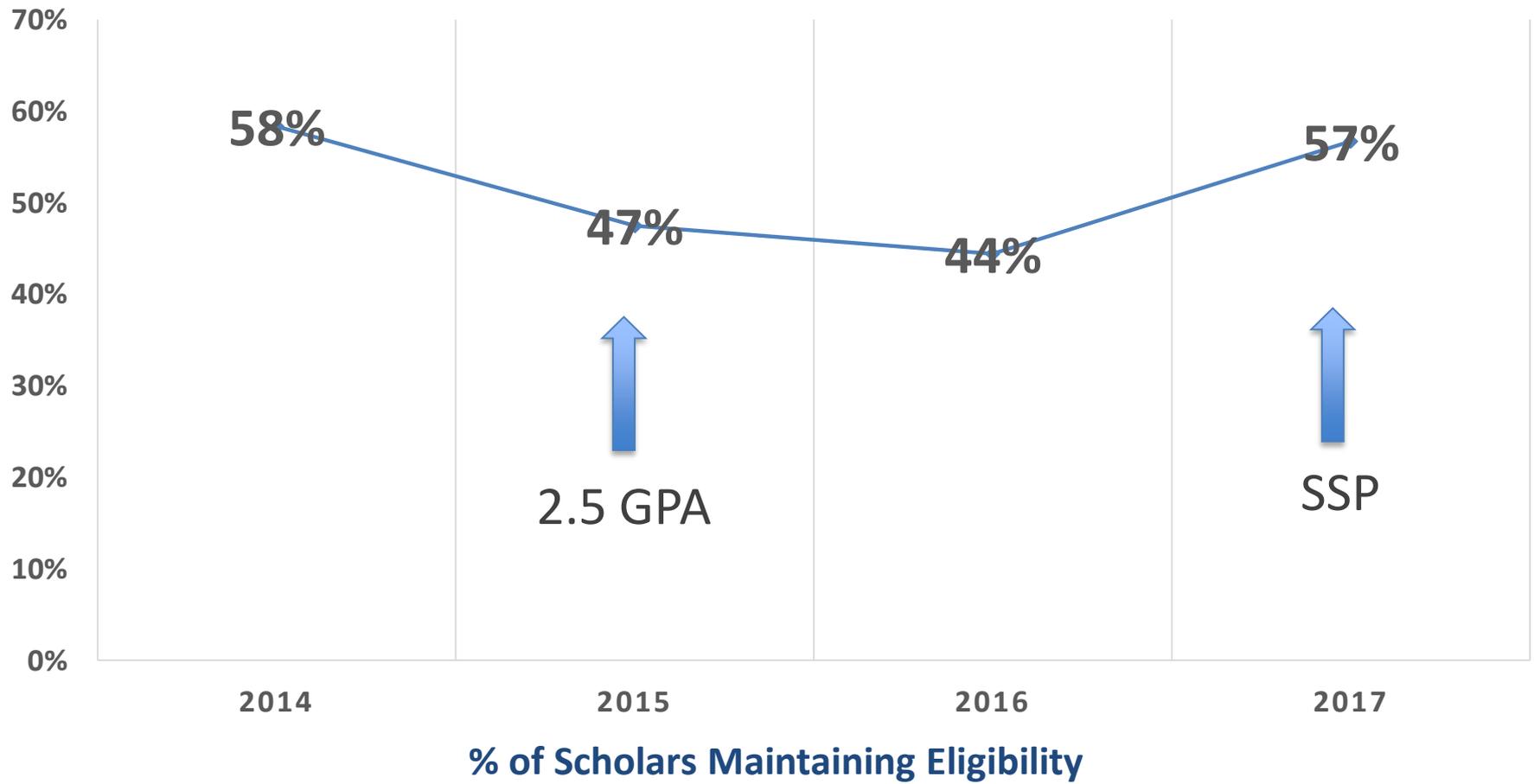
# Scholar Data

## *During College*

	SCHOLARS	NON-SCHOLARS LOW-INCOME	ALL INDIANA STUDENTS
<b>COLLEGE PERFORMANCE</b> Indiana public college students who earn a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher.	66%	56%	69%
<b>COLLEGE RETENTION</b> Indiana public college students who persist from the first to second year.	71%	64%	75%
<b>ON-TIME COLLEGE COMPLETION</b> Indiana public college students who earn an associate degree within 2 years or a bachelor's degree within 4 years.	25%	19%	32%
<b>EXTENDED-TIME COLLEGE COMPLETION</b> Indiana public college students who earn an associate degree within 3 years or a bachelor's degree within 6 years.	38%	33%	47%



# Historical Context: Scholars Maintaining Eligibility



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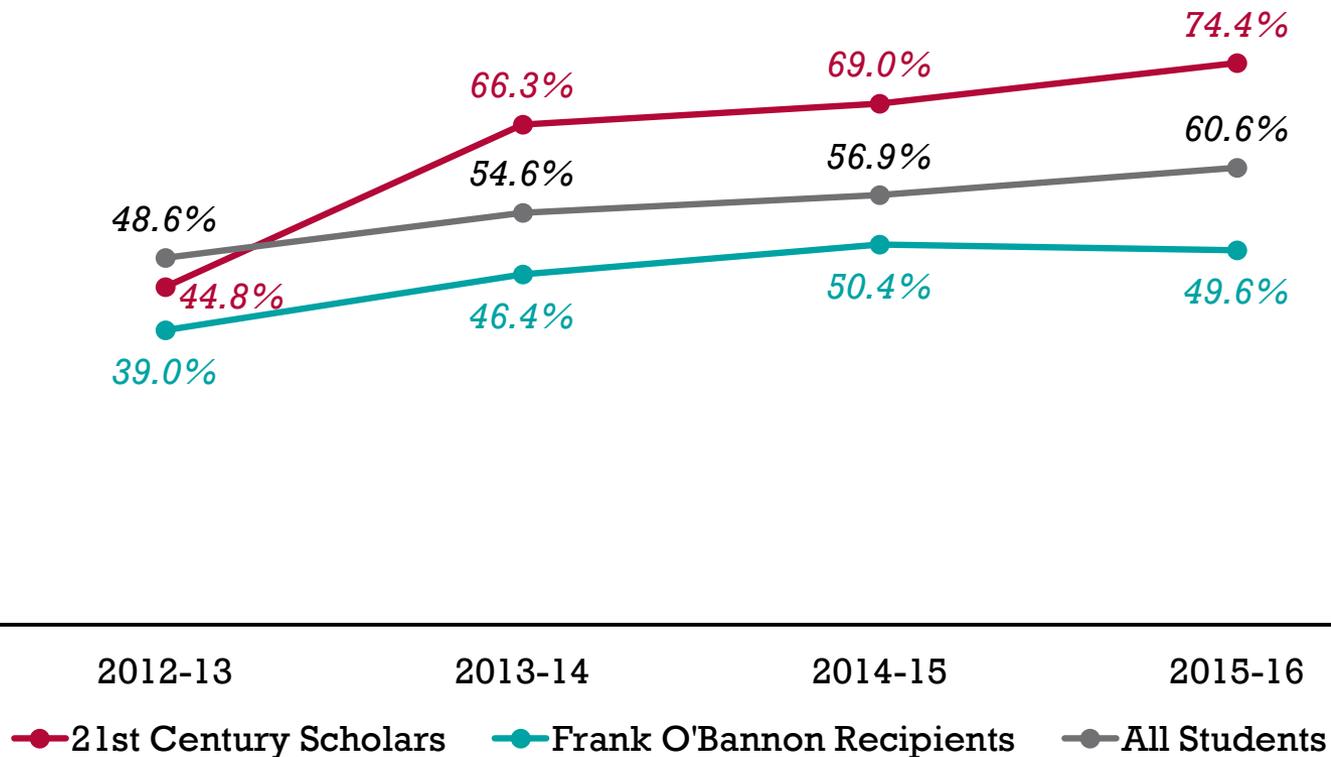


# Credit Completion



# Scholars Now Outpace Students Overall in Credit Completion

## Percentage of Students Completing 30+ Credits in the First Year





# College Completion



# College Completion for Scholars

**Scholars are improving at a greater rate than all other student populations:**

- Scholars: **+7 point** increase in one year
- All Students: **+4 point** increase in one year



# College Completion for Scholars

## Scholars are more likely to graduate on time than their low-income peers

- Scholars: **30%** on-time grad rate
- Other Low-income: **24%** on-time grad rate



# College Completion for Scholars

**Scholars are now more likely to graduate on time at two-year campuses than the overall student population**

- Scholars: **17%** on-time grad rate
- Students Overall: **13%** on-time grad rate

**Scholars are on track to close achievement gap at four-year campuses by/before 2025 (CHE Goal)**





# Discussion



# Contact Information

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# TAKE THE SESSION SURVEY!

## FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- 1** Find our session under the "schedule" icon and go to the session page.
- 2** Scroll until you see "Surveys."
- 3** Click on "Session Survey" to take the survey.



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