

Discussion Topics for College Bound Report Recommendations

1) RECOMMENDATION: Full funding of State Need Grant

College Bound Scholars are now prioritized for State Need Grant awards, but only 70 percent of State Need Grant eligible students receive an award. As a result, many institutions use their own financial aid resources to fill the gap. Because College Bound is designed as a “last dollar” program, full-funding of State Need Grant would reduce costs. State could consider re-investment in GET program on an on-going basis to provide consistent and/or predictable funding source to cover at least part of program cost.

2) RECOMMENDATION: Develop and expand data collection as College Bound Scholars move through post-secondary education

Identify students and track retention and completion rates of College Bound Scholars as they move through post-secondary institutions will give policymakers a clearer picture of the program’s impact on both the higher education institutions as well as student outcomes. Data could include metrics for enrollment at individual institutions as well as persistence and degree and certificate completion.

3) RECOMMENDATION: Expand advising and mentoring services to ensure greater high school completion for enrollees.

Some programs have shown success in reaching College Bound Scholars and helping them graduate, but mentoring and advising services—which is crucial to student achievement—unevenly distributed and could be better coordinated. About 3,000 College Bound Scholars in middle and high schools receive targeted counseling from college students who help the Scholars stay on track to graduate, but they comprise less than 2 percent of sign-ups since 2007.

4) RECOMMENDATION: Encourage (require?) institutions to provide tailored advising resources for College Bound Scholars once they have enrolled at a post-secondary institution.

Institutions should complete the handoff of advising and counseling services begun at the middle- and high-school levels. Schools should identify officials and campus resources, including other College Bound Scholars, to work with Scholars on campus.

5) RECOMMENDATION: Review communications and outreach tools, including social media, designed to keep College Bound Scholars on track to graduate. Expand online resources to help schools track Scholars and find new ways to reach out at key junctures.

6) RECOMMENDATION: Consider Coordinated Service Model utilizing existing partnerships and programs that helped equalize mentoring and advising resources across the state.

7) RECOMMENDATION: Enhance College Bound policy goal to specifically include high school graduation and college completion or post-secondary certification.