

*Pathways to Opportunity:  
The Virginia Plan  
for Higher Education*

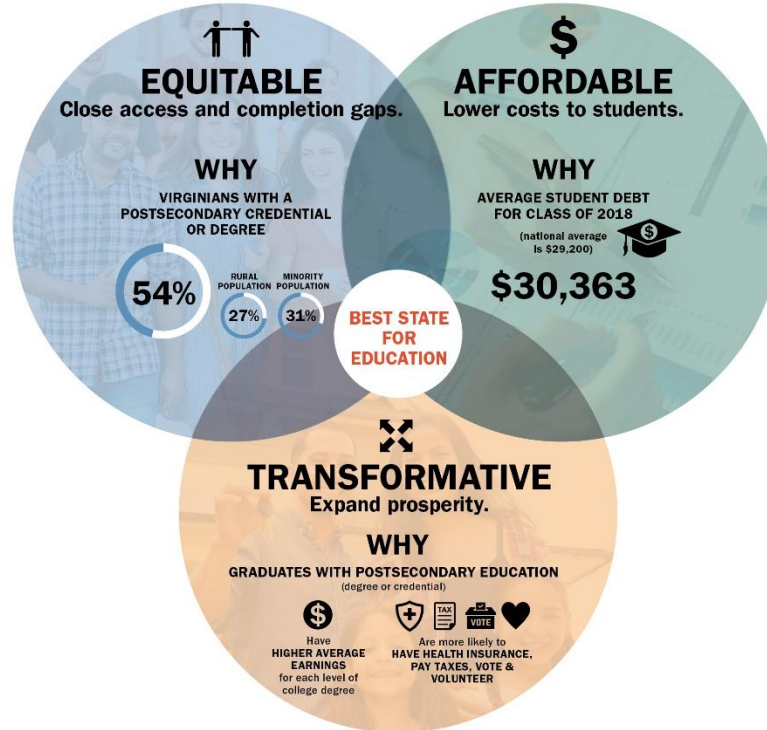
**SCHEV Council – A Preview of Measuring Success  
May 18, 2021**



**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**

# Pathways to Opportunity

Virginia will advance equitable, affordable and transformative higher education.  
Virginia seeks to be the best state for education by 2030.



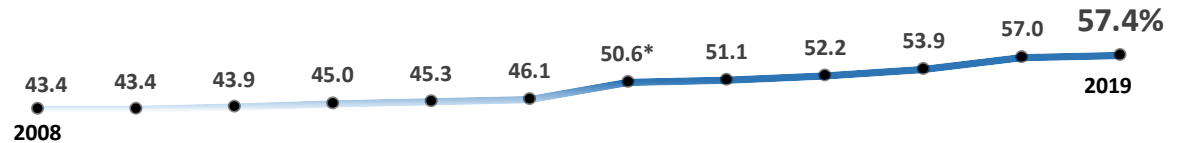
# Pathways to Opportunity – Plan Elements

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- Pathways to Opportunity (The Plan) is the Commonwealth’s statewide strategic plan for higher education.
- Three intrinsically connected goals support fulfillment of The Plan’s mission, vision and overall target.
- Mission: Virginia will advance **equitable, affordable and transformative** higher education.
- Vision: “Best State for Education.”
- Overall target: 70% educational attainment with a focus on equity.

# Overarching Attainment Target

- Overarching target of The Plan is 70% attainment by 2030.
- Includes workforce certificates, certifications and beyond.
- Source of baseline information: [Lumina Foundation Stronger Nation](#).



\*Since 2014, workforce-relevant certificates have been included in the total of Postsecondary credentials. Since 2018, the total also has included certifications.

# Measures Preamble

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- The Virginia Plan encompasses all of higher education. Developing The Plan amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and persistent inequities, stakeholders expressed the need to prioritize students and student success over all else that is measured. Therefore, the five measures focus specifically on students and student success.
- SCHEV recognizes the importance of other contributions or factors such as state funding and return on investment. These other factors will be monitored as related indicators to mark progress and/or the need for changes in strategies and activities.
- Systematic disaggregation of data by subgroups is needed to inform equity-based policy.

# Plan Measures – What and How

Measures to Assess Goal Fulfillment				
Goals	Measure	Definition	Target	Desired Outcome
Goal 1 - Equitable: Close access and completion gaps.	Attainment	Percent of 25- to 64-year-olds with a postsecondary degree or credential	Close gaps in attainment of selected groups	Improved attainment for all.
	Enrollment	Fall headcount of public and private undergraduates	Close enrollment gaps of selected groups to reflect the population	Improved access for all.
Goal 2 - Affordable: Lower costs to students.	Awards	Undergraduate degrees and credentials produced each year	Close award gaps of selected groups to reflect enrollment	Improved success for all students.
	Borrowing	Average debt of graduates	Close gaps in borrowing of selected groups	Improved affordability for all students.
Goal 3 - Transformative: Expand prosperity.	Wages	Graduates' wages 10 years after graduation	Close gaps in earnings of selected groups	Improved prosperity for all graduates.

Closing gaps means: Targeting resources based on identified needs and circumstances and eliminating barriers that limit opportunities and success.

# Plan Measures - Why

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- Higher education serves as the link between Pre-K-12 learners and the talent vital to Virginia's economy and well-being.
- The five measures serve as the top-level means to assess achievement of:
  - The Plan's three linked goals: equitable, affordable and transformative higher education;
  - The vision of "Best State for Education;" and
  - The overall target of 70% attainment, with a focus on equity.
- Other related indicators will be assessed along the way.
  - The related indicators are currently accessible via SCHEV's research home page.

# Assessing Goal Achievement

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- **Baseline data for the measures are sourced from SCHEV Research and the American Community Survey.**
- **The measures are tracked on SCHEV's Virginia Plan Dashboard. The Dashboard data will help SCHEV identify and understand the gaps are in order to close them.**
- **Via The Virginia Plan Dashboard, data can be queried at the state level, by Go Virginia region, program level, institution, income, race/ethnicity and/or gender.**
- **Current higher education data limitations exist regarding students with disabilities and English language learners. SCHEV is working to remedy these data limitations.**
- **For each measure, the dashboard includes a chart for each of the four subgroups: race/ethnicity, region, income and gender. The following slides provide a sample of this analysis.**
- **Phase 2 of this effort will improve website accessibility of the related indicators and connect to The Virginia Plan Dashboard.**



# The VA Plan Dashboard

SCHEV Home > Higher Ed Data >

Virginia (total)

All Program Levels

All Genders

**Grand Total, All Reporting**  
All Program Levels

Attainment

Select an institution

- Grand Total
- Private Four-Years
- Public Four-Years
- Public Institutions
- Public Two-Years
- VCCS
- Appalachian C. of Pharm.
- Averett U. Non-Traditional
- Va C. of Osteopathic Med.
- Averett University
- Blue Ridge CC
- Bluefield C.
- Bridgewater C.
- Central Virginia CC
- Christendom C.
- Christopher Newport U.
- Dabney S. Lancaster CC
- Danville CC
- Eastern Mennonite U.
- Eastern Shore CC
- Eastern Va Med. Sch.
- Emory & Henry C.
- Ferrum College
- George Mason U.
- Germanna CC
- Hampden-Sydney C.
- Hampton U.
- Hollins U.
- J Sargeant Reynolds CC
- James Madison U.
- Jefferson C. of Health Sci.
- John Tyler CC
- Liberty U.
- Longwood U.
- Radford CC

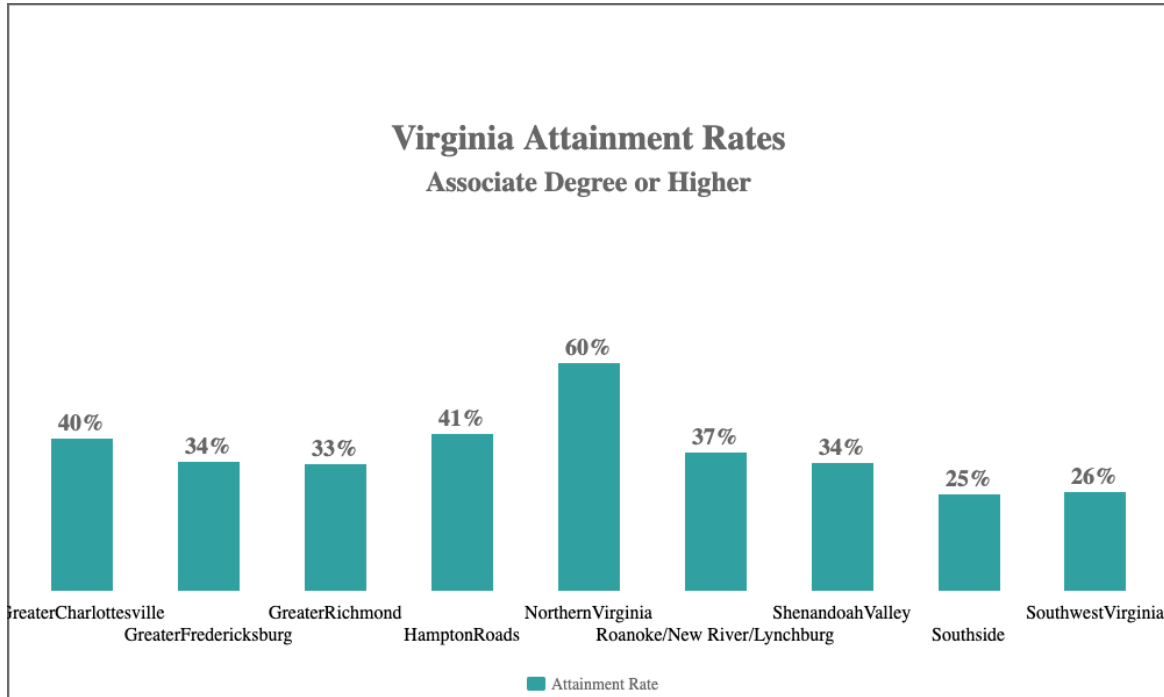
50% 47%

All Am.Ind./AK.Nat

71% 55% 54%

Hispanic/Latinx H/Am/PI.(NH) R/E.Unk..(NH) White.(NH)

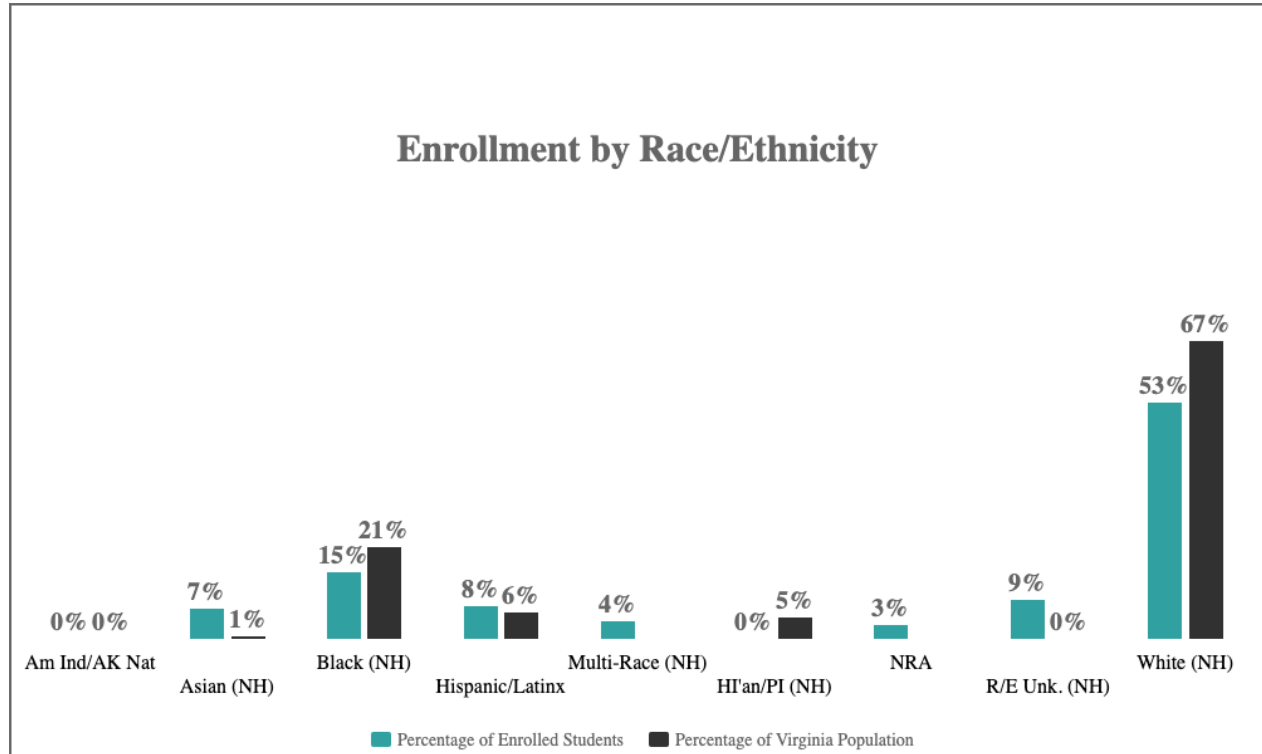
# Attainment



- Target: Close gaps in attainment of selected groups.
- Related indicators: Breakdown by type of credential and program.
- Desired outcome: Improved attainment for all.
- Includes Associate Degree and above.

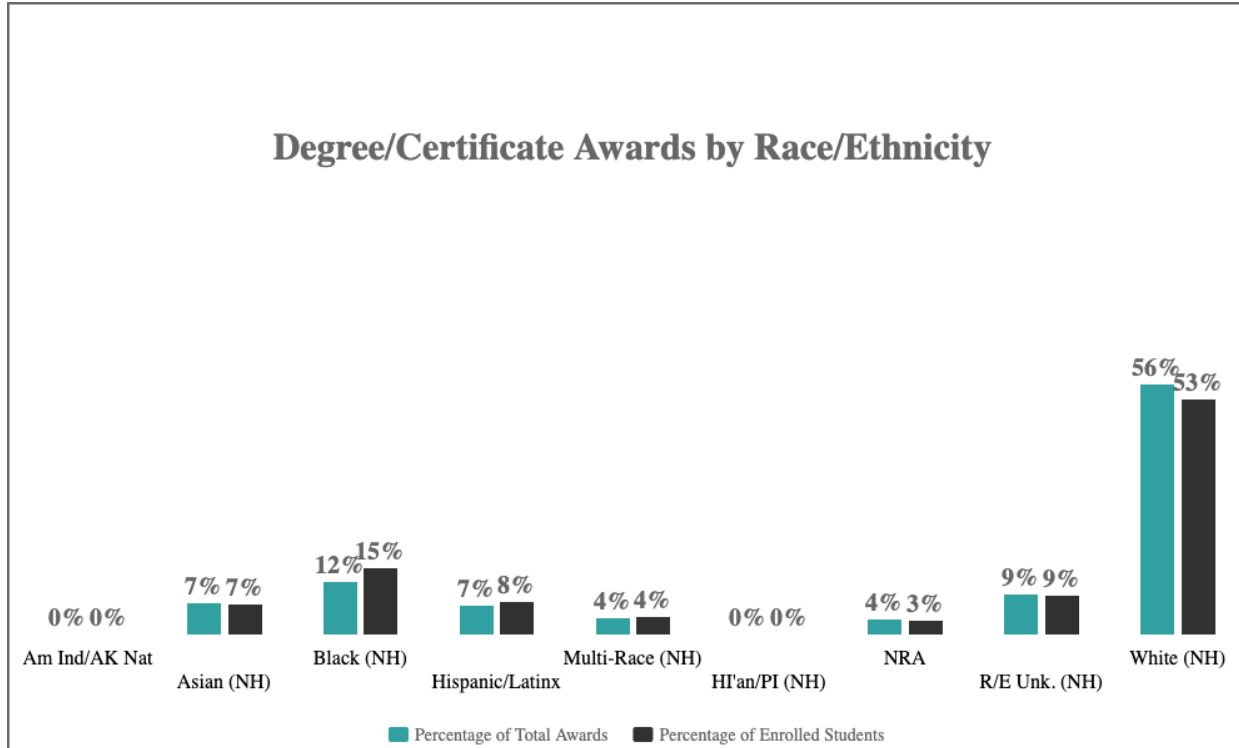
# Enrollment

- Target: Close enrollment gaps of selected groups to reflect the population.
- Related indicators: Breakdown by institution and program of study.
- Desired outcome: Improved access for all.



Note: Total enrollment for American Indian/Alaska natives in Virginia is 607; Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander is 416. Total population Unknown/non-Hispanic is 6,504.

# Awards

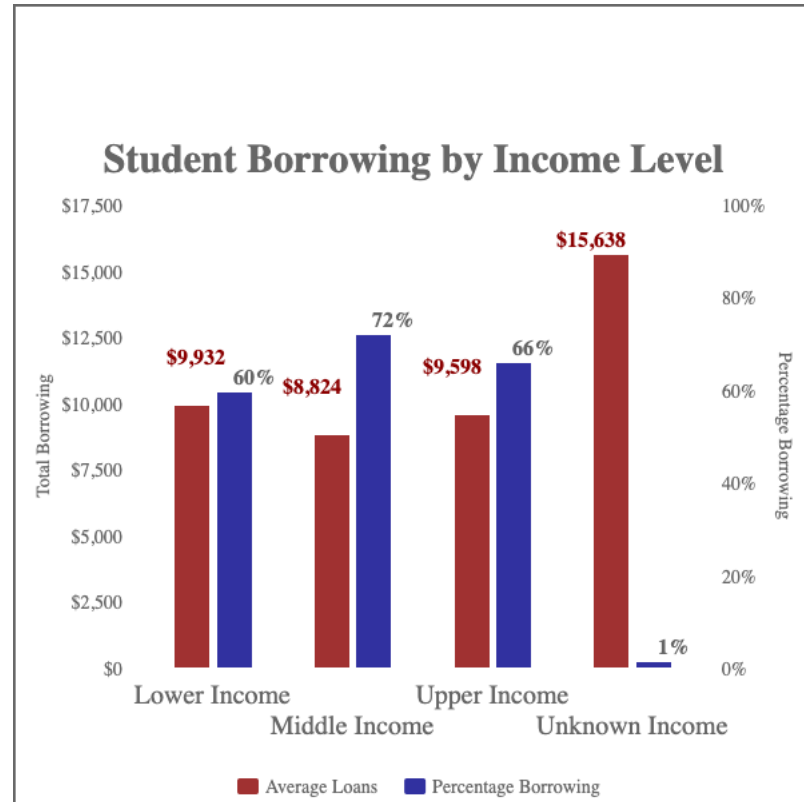


Note: Total awards for American Indian/Alaska natives in Virginia is 156; Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander is 103.

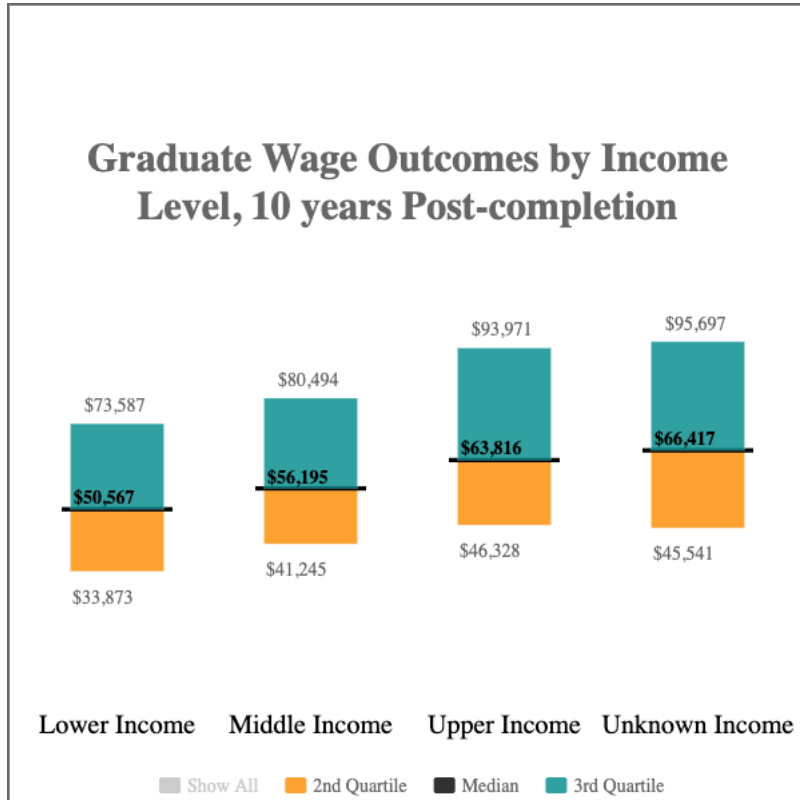
- Target: Close award gaps of selected groups to reflect enrollment.
- Related indicators: Breakdown by institution, program of study, gender and length of time to award.
- Desired outcome: Improved success for all students.

# Borrowing

- Target: Close gaps in borrowing of selected groups.
- Related indicators: Repayment rates, default rates, gender and breakdown by quartiles.
- Desired outcome: Improved affordability for all students.
- Borrowing is a barometer of affordability, which is a complex issue. (e.g., not all debt is bad).
  - Average borrowing includes students that borrowed \$0.
  - Captures borrowing at all levels including community colleges where students are less likely to borrow and if they do, borrow less.



# Wages



- Target: Close gaps in earnings of selected groups.
- Related indicators: program choice.
- Desired outcome: Improved prosperity for all graduates.
- Earnings are not the only measure of prosperity in the broad sense of the term (financial, personal, social and cultural).\*
- Data includes employers reporting to VEC for employment insurance all year. Excludes federal government employees, military etc.
- Data for graduates 10 years out is a small sample size.

# Questions

Virginia.gov Agencies | Governor Search Virginia.Gov

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SCHEV | Web Policy | Contact SCHEV

SCHEV Home > Higher Ed Data >

Virginia (total) All Program Levels All Genders Update

**Grand Total, All Reporting**  
All Program Levels

Attainment Enrollment Borrowing Wages

Select an institution

- Grand Total
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Latino/Hispanic NH White (NH)