

Chris Jenne
Senior Project Manager

Education Table

CalKIDS Scholarships, Direct Admissions, Policy Updates, and Release of Information



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth

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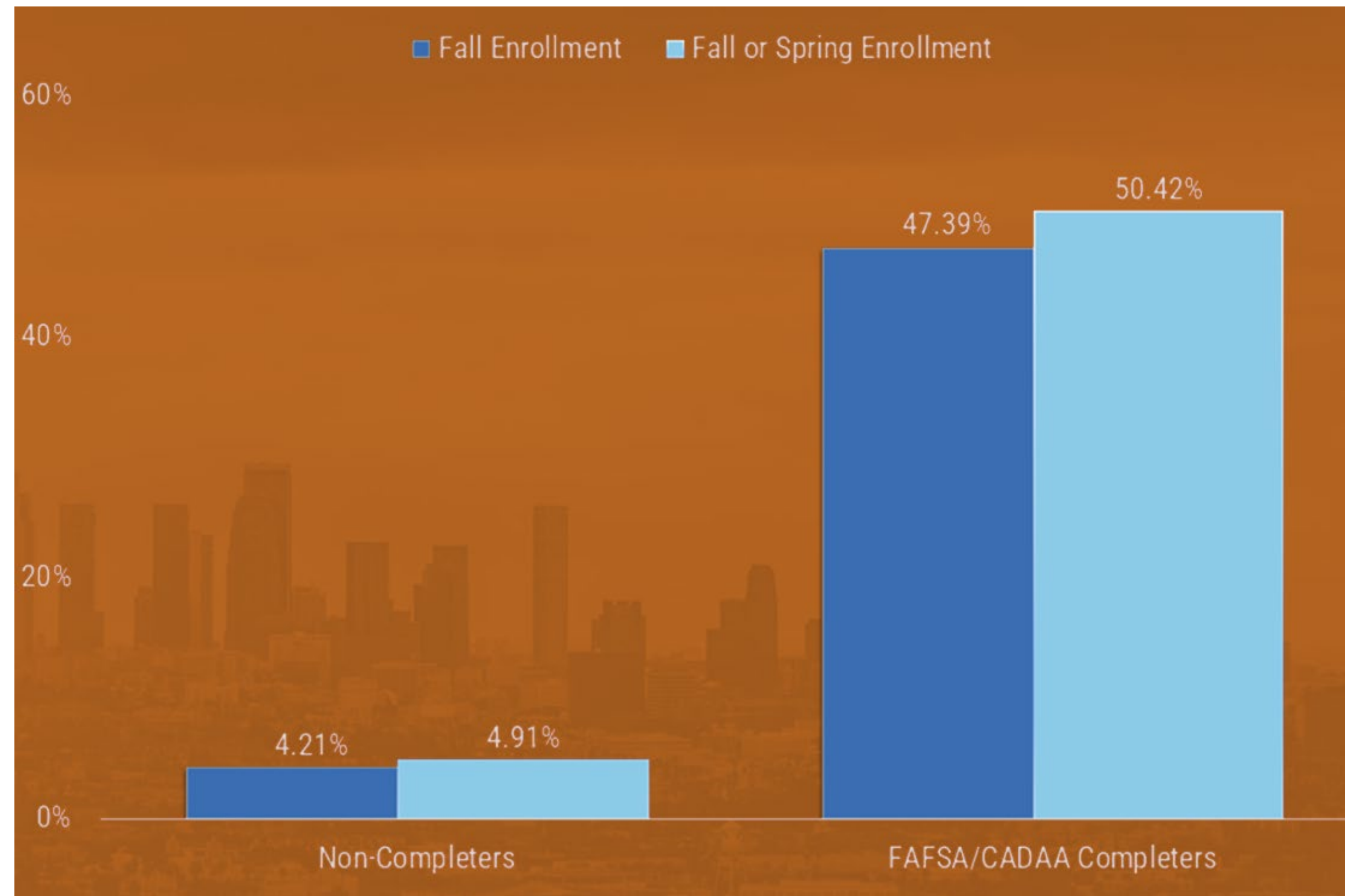
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Update on the FAFSA/CADAA Foster Youth Challenge

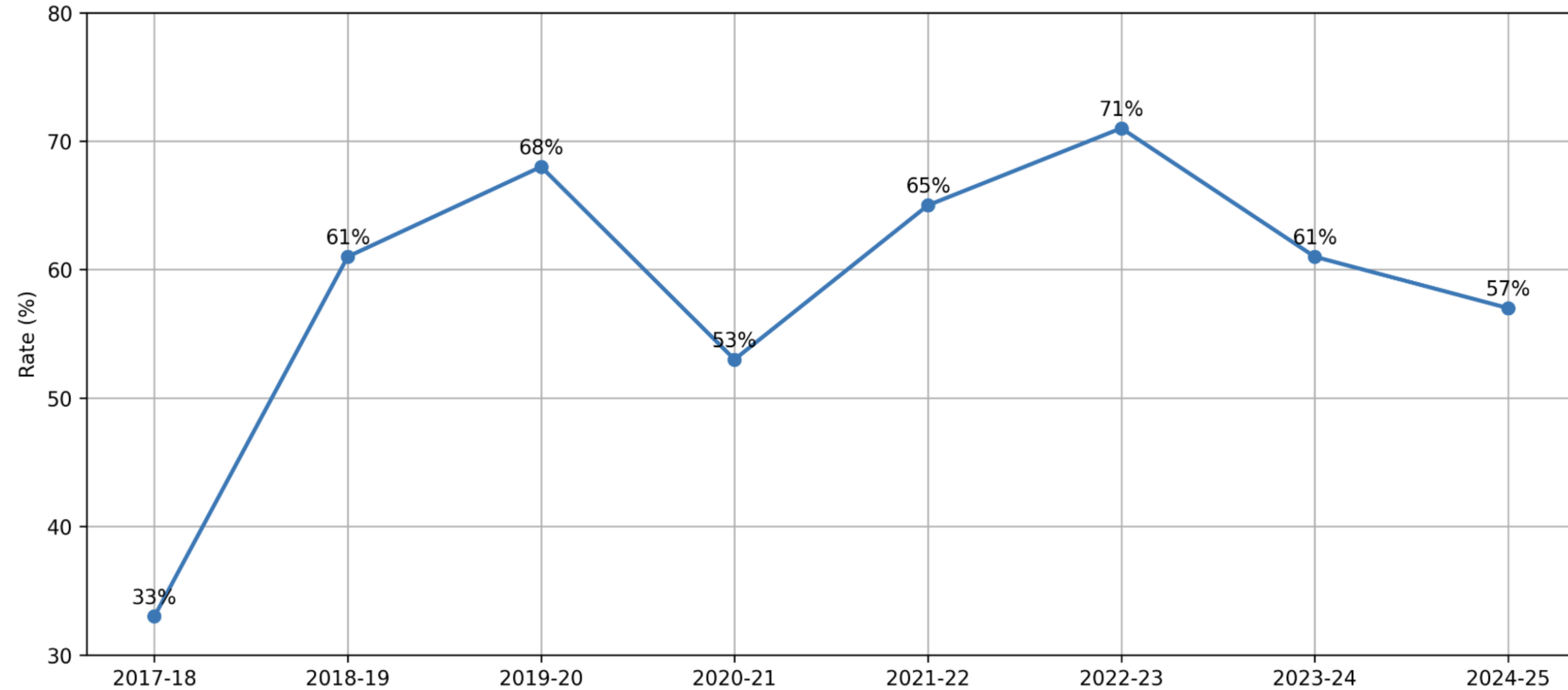
The Impact of Applying to Financial Aid

2022–23 students who completed financial aid were **20X more likely to enroll** in college next fall

Source: LACOE



LA County Financial Aid Application Rate is Increasing Overall



CalKIDS Scholarship Overview & Updates

College Savings Makes a Difference



Research shows that compared to children without college savings, children with savings for college are:

- **3x** more likely to enroll in college
- **5x** more likely to graduate



Types of CalKIDS Accounts

There are two types of CalKIDS College Savings Accounts:



At Birth Account

- \$25 initial deposit for all children born in California between July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- \$100 initial deposit for all children born in California after July 1, 2023



School-Age Account

- \$500 for eligible low-income students
- Additional \$500 for foster youth
- Additional \$500 for homeless youth

Claim CalKIDS Account!

School Age Account: Eligible Low-Income Students

Academic Year	Grade	Identified On: (Census Day)
2021- 2022	1 – 12	October 6, 2021
2022 - 2023	1	October 5, 2022
2023 - 2024	1	October 4, 2023
<i>NEW: 2024 – 2025</i>	<i>1 – 12 (foster youth only)* 1 (low-income & homeless)</i>	<i>October 2, 2024</i>

Foster youth may have at least \$1,000 in their CalKIDS account!

***Expansion for foster youth grades 1-12 sunsets in 3 years**

UPDATE! Statewide School ID Attainment



- Students can find their SSID in their californiacolleges.edu account
- Several school districts have featured SSID on Student ID cards for easy access

State LEA Requirement

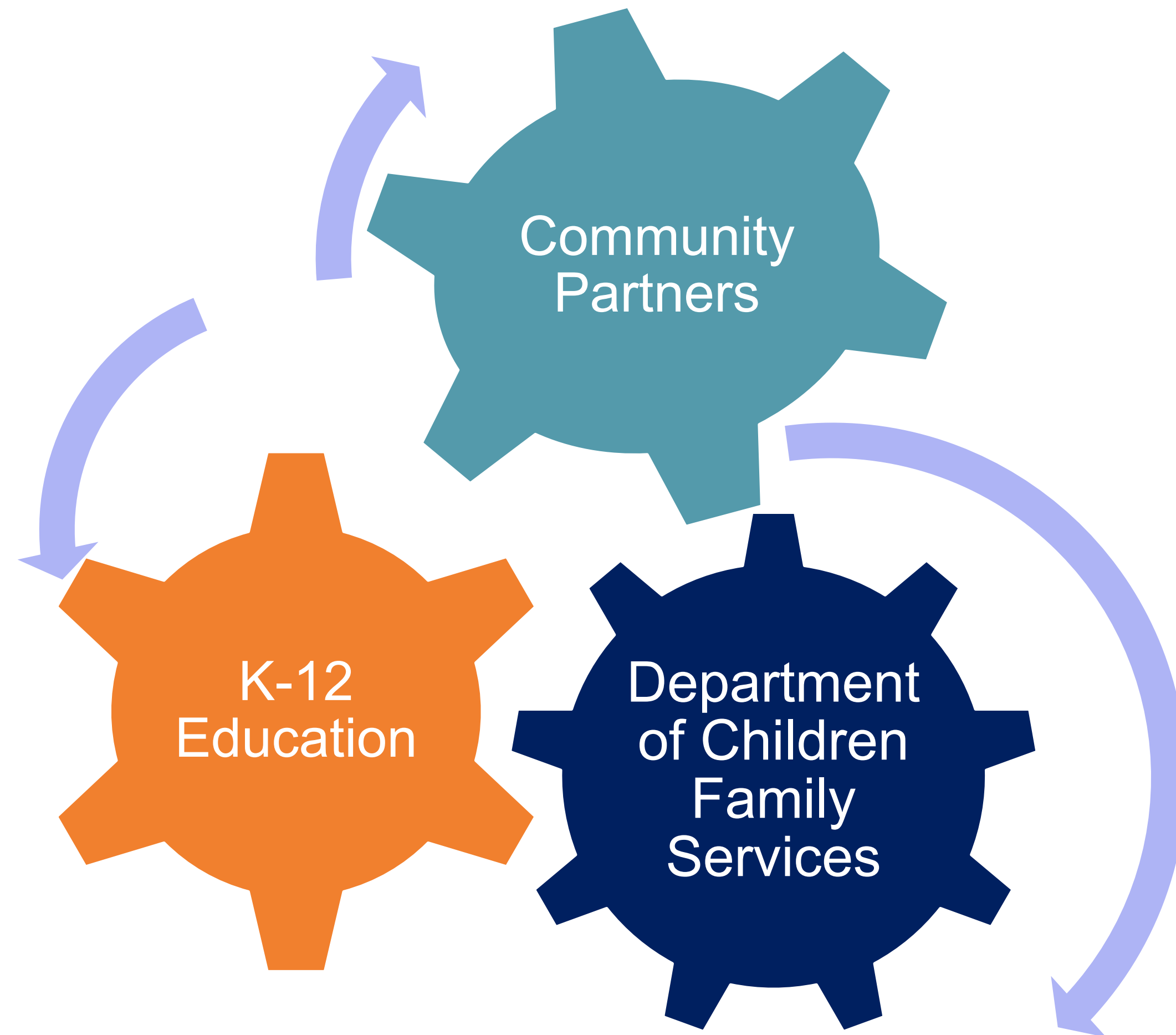


As part of the 2025–26 California state budget, public schools are required to inform students about CalKIDS

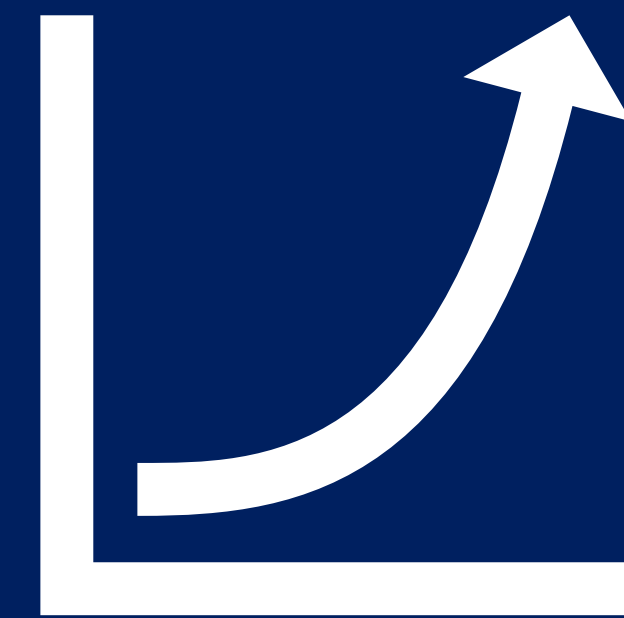
Scholarships

- Letters
- Back-to-school events
- Graduation

Goal: Increase Claims of CalKIDS Scholarships for LA County's Foster Youth



Goal:
Increase from
11.78% to 50% by
June 2028



Promoting CalKIDS: Child Welfare



- **Turning Dreams into Degrees:** Adding CalKIDS into the mandatory training
- **Resource Families:** Training staff that support resource families & Binti email blast.
- **Independent Living Program:** Adding CalKIDS to ILP website
- **L.A. CASA:** March 2026 presentation
- **STRTP:** Presentation in December 2025

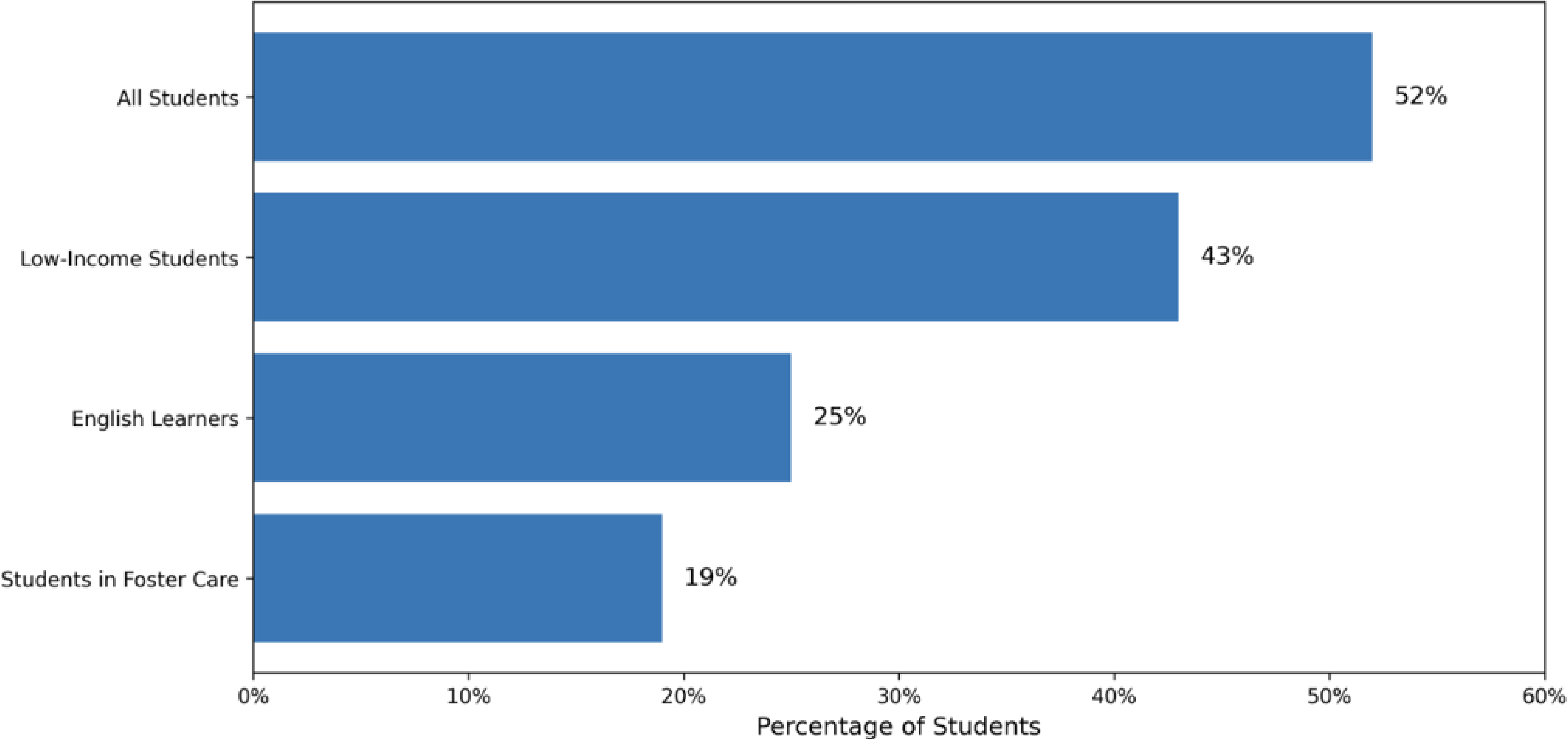
Promoting CalKIDS: Education



- **Financial Literacy Course** Statewide course is mandatory beginning in 2027–28. LA Unified School District starts Fall 2026.
- **Webgrants 4 Students & WinSCP** Currently a feature exists for High Schools to run a report which identifies claimed and unclaimed scholarships for students in grades 9–12

Direct Admissions Pilot

Students in Foster Care Continue to Face Significant Gaps in UC/CSU Eligibility



Source: WestEd, Revisiting California’s Invisible Achievement Gap (2025), using 2022-23 data.

Direct Admissions SB 640



Guarantees admission to CSU for all **eligible** high school seniors in California.

- Students must still apply to which CSU they plan to attend
- Mailers go out during fall 2026 to eligible seniors and those on-the-cusp
- More on Direct Admissions [here](#)

Implementing Direct Admissions

- LEAS are required to have an MOU with California College Guidance Initiative (CCGI)
- CCGI transcript data can identify high school seniors who meet A-G & eligibility requirements
- Infrastructure supports implementation of Direct Admissions Initiative SB 640

Goal: Increase Direct Enrollment into a CSU for LA County's Youth in Foster Care

Leverage the CSU's Life Prep Academy program to pilot college planning workshops for middle school students in foster care

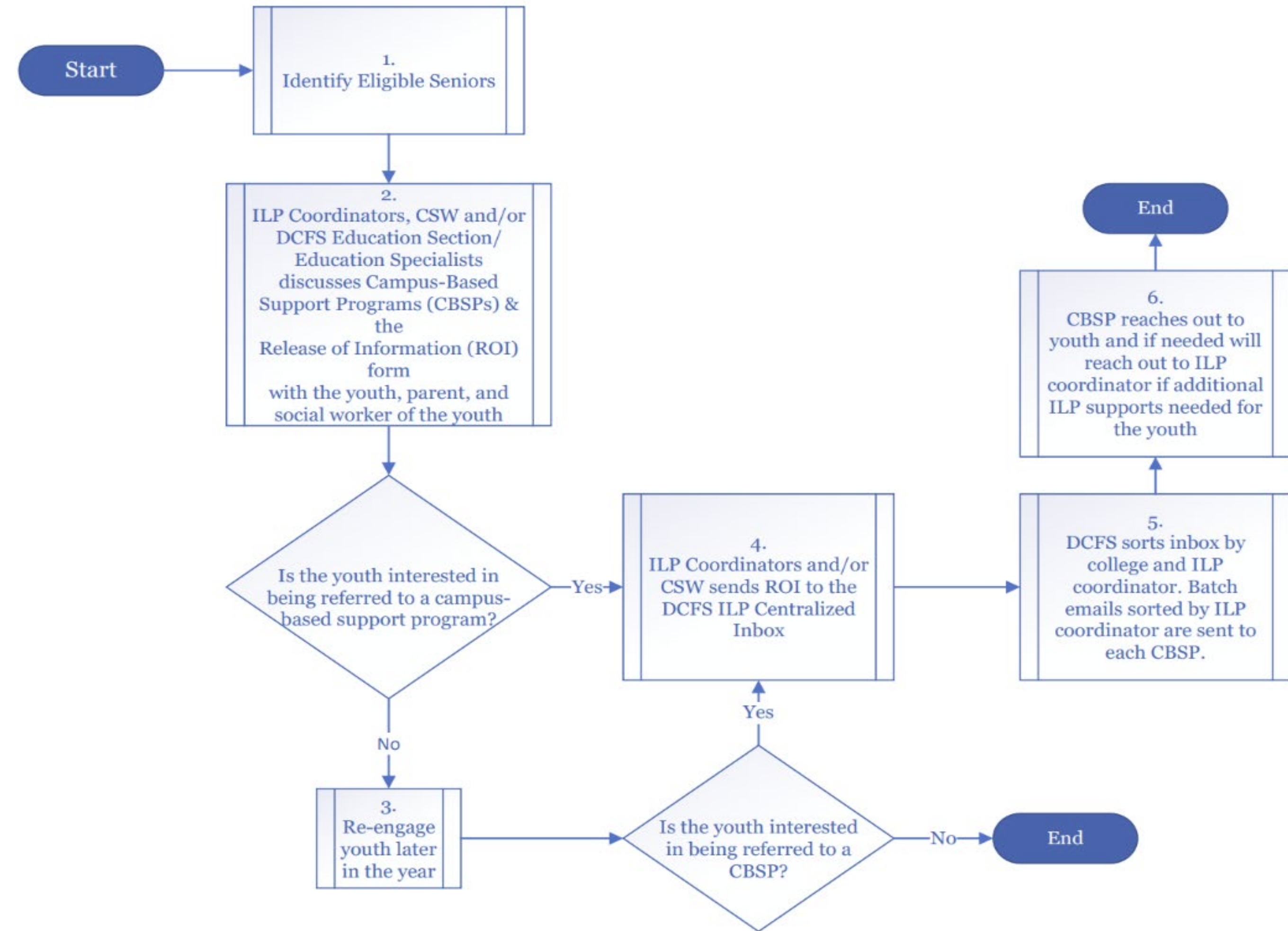
Send direct admissions mailers to LA County's foster youth in 8th-11th grade

Execute a MOU between LACOE and CCGI to receive and leverage student-level "a-g" data

Release of Information to Campus Based Support Programs

Goal: Reduce Summer Melt and Increase Direct College Enrollment

- Eligible seniors are identified and either contacted by DCFS if ILP eligible or LACOE if FM/VP
- Interested students are supported to complete the ROI and connected to campus-based support program(s)



Release of Information

- During Spring 2025, 253 R.O.I. forms signed
- DCFS ROI form can be found [here](#) or via scanning:



Release of Information to Campus-Based Foster Youth Support Programs

* = Required Field

I, *, give permission to disclose (share) the following information to the colleges listed below for the purposes of referring to campus-based foster youth support programs (i.e. NextUp, Guardian Scholars). These programs provide supports and resources to students with experience in foster care to help them succeed in college.

Youth's Legal Name*

Youth's Affirmed Name

Youth's Pronouns

Youth's Cell Phone Number

Youth's Email Address*

Youth's preferred form of contact (check all that apply):* Email ☐ Call ☐ Text ☐

College(s) authorized to receive the youth's information (list up to four colleges):*

Youth's DOB*

Is the youth 18 years of age or older?* Yes ☐ No ☐

I understand that I may revoke this consent at any time by notifying my social worker or ILP Coordinator verbally or in writing. Revoking my consent means that the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) will no longer be allowed to provide my information to the college(s) indicated above. I understand that this does not prevent me from contacting the colleges on my own. I acknowledge that I have read this consent and understand its contents. For youth with open cases, who have attorneys, I understand I may consult with my attorney if I have questions about this form and the sharing of my information.

If not previously revoked, this authorization ends one year from the date of signature. I will receive a copy of this signed authorization if I request it.

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5/8/26, 1:47 PM

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Youth Signature:*

(Please use your mouse if you're on a computer, or your hand to sign if you're on a mobile device or tablet.)

Clear

Adult Signature (only required if the youth is under the age of 18):

(Please use your mouse if you're on a computer, or your hand to sign if you're on a mobile device or tablet.)

Clear

Relationship to Youth: Mother ☐ Father ☐ Legal Guardian ☐ Education Rights Holder ☐ Caregiver ☐ STRTP Provider ☐ Bench Officer ☐ Guardian Ad Litem ☐ ILP Coordinator/CSW ☐

Submit

1/2

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Legislative Updates

AB 2766: Improving Access to Student Housing & Course Enrollment

Assemblymember Patrick Ahrens

Co-Sponsored by JBAY, UCSA, Student Homes, & UAspire



- Requires **priority housing at California Community Colleges for eligible students with experience in foster care or homelessness**, aligning CCCs with existing CSU and UC practices
- Requires housing applications to **identify current/former foster youth and students experiencing homelessness** across CCCs and CSUs, and requests the UCs
- Improves transparency by ensuring eligibility information is **clearly posted on campus websites** across CCCs and CSUs, and requests the UCs
- Allows housing deposits and **upfront housing fees to be deferred or waived** until financial aid disbursement at CCCs and CSUs, and requests the UCs
- **Aligns priority registration eligibility with NextUp eligibility** so that all students in NextUp, including those over the age of 25, continue to have access to PR at the CCCs



AB 2251: Making Cost of Attendance (COA) Transparent, Flexible, & Student-Centered

Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez,

Co-sponsored by JBAY, CSAC, UCSA, CSSA, UAspire and TICAS

- Requires campuses to **publicly explain how COA budgets are calculated**, and to **post information about the COA appeal process** on their websites
- Allows students to request **COA adjustments for any expense category, with no limit on the number of requests**
- Establishes **clear timelines for review and notification** of decisions
- If requested by a student, institutions **may provide the opportunity for a second review for an adjustment request that is denied**, which may be conducted by a reviewer who did not conduct the initial review.
- Allows students to submit documentation in electronic or paper form

Get Involved & Learn More

- Visit JBAY's Advocacy Page: jbay.org/2026-advocacy/
- Access bill fact sheets, FAQs and support letter templates



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth

THANK YOU

Chris Jenne

Email: chris@jbay.org

JBAY.ORG