



Children's Cabinet of Orange County: Persistence in College

FLORIDA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK



Leading questions



Defining “persistence”

What is the current Orange County/Central Florida/Florida ‘trend’ for this benchmark?

What does it mean? Why is it important?

What are the best practices?

What steps can parents/communities/agencies take if their child is not on target?

Defining “persistence”



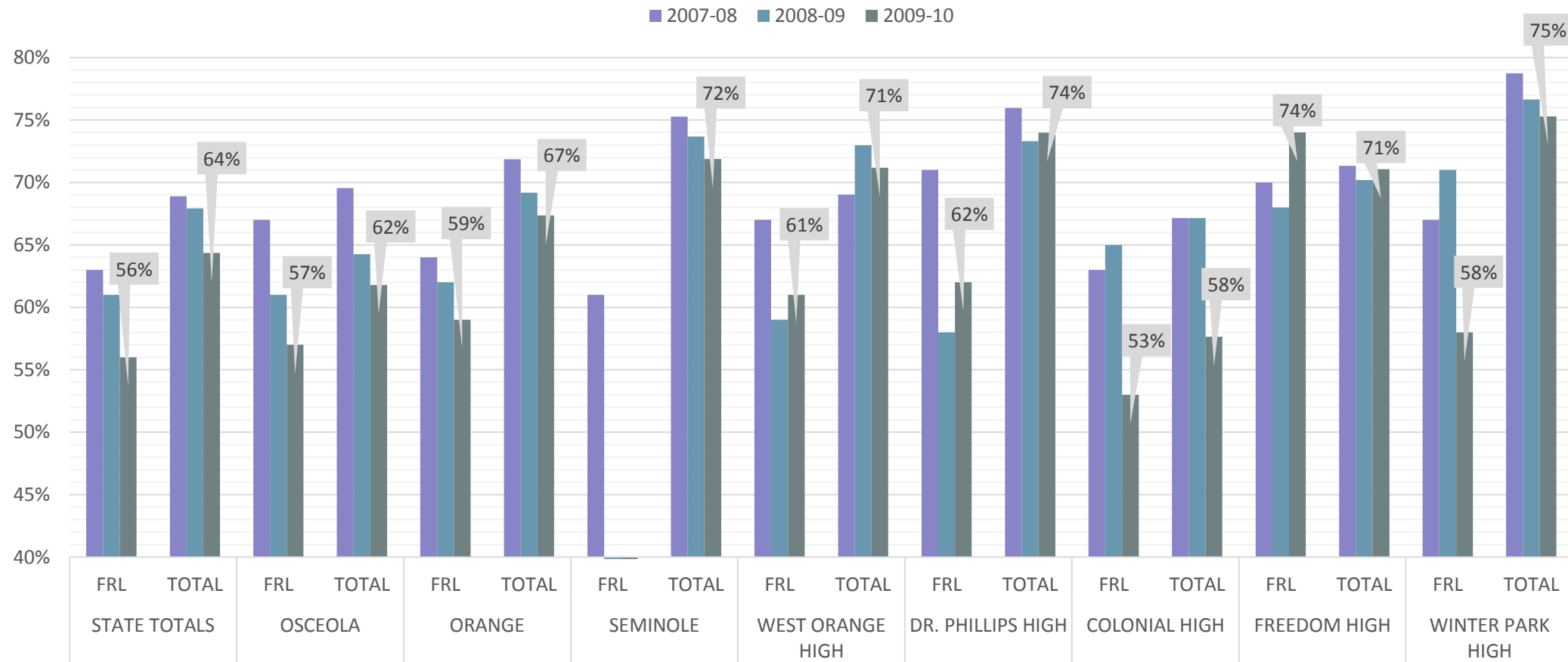
Persistence in college refers to the desire and action of a student to stay within the system of higher education from beginning year through graduation (Seidman, 2012).

Other related terms used to describe persistence may be *attrition, mortality, success, retention...* any others?



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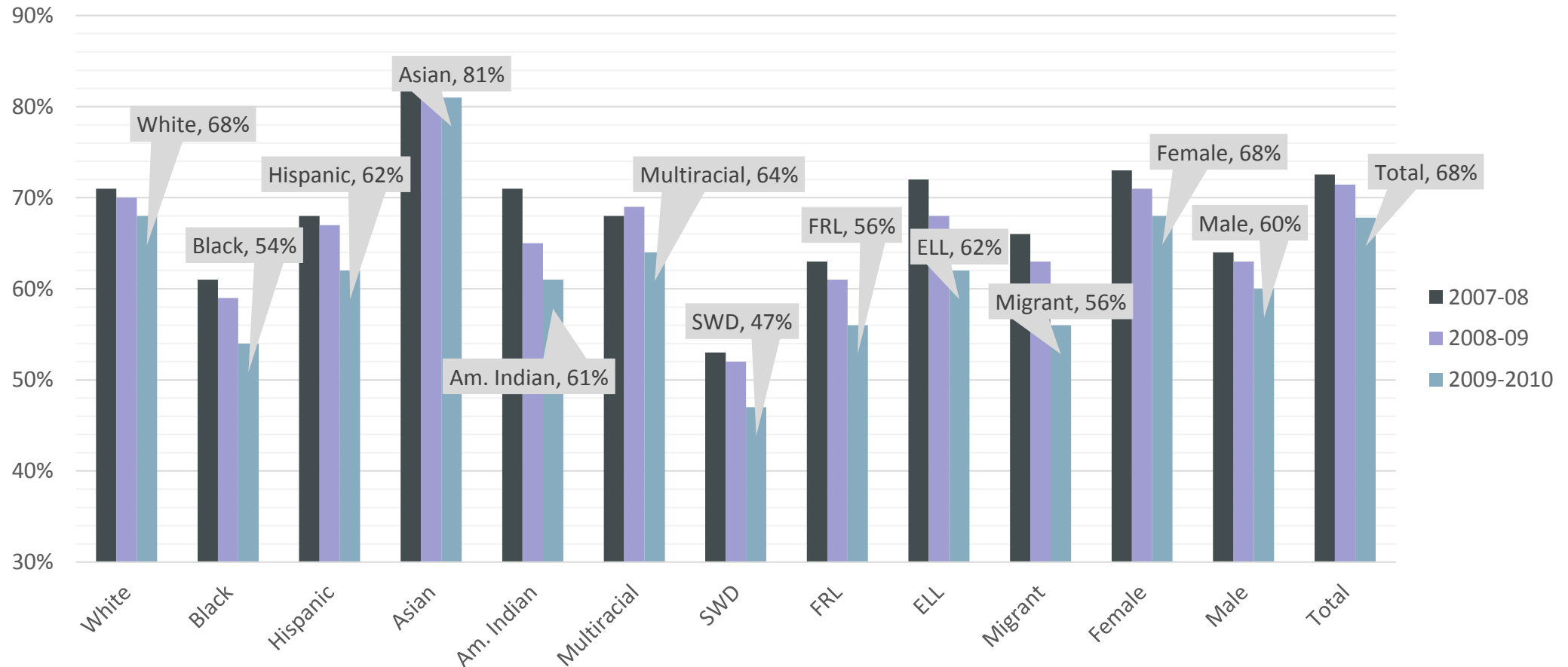
What is the current trend for this benchmark?





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Early Success in College



What does it mean?



College course completion rates have not yet been fully investigated in Florida.

Some factors that may influence credits completed are credits attempted, part-time or full-time status, courses failed or withdrawn from, non-credit courses attempted and others.

Students not meeting this threshold are at risk for not completing their degree in a timely manner, or at all.

This indicator is also important because it reflects the outcomes of high school graduates instead of traditional measures of persistence viewing the performance of students already in college.

What are best practices?



High schools are likely to focus on academic and financial preparedness for college while colleges may target activities like intrusive academic (including financial) advising and planning and promoting activities increase campus engagement (see Kuh).

Attempting rigorous coursework in high school helps students transition to first year of college when math and composition courses are taken.

Steps if students are not on track...



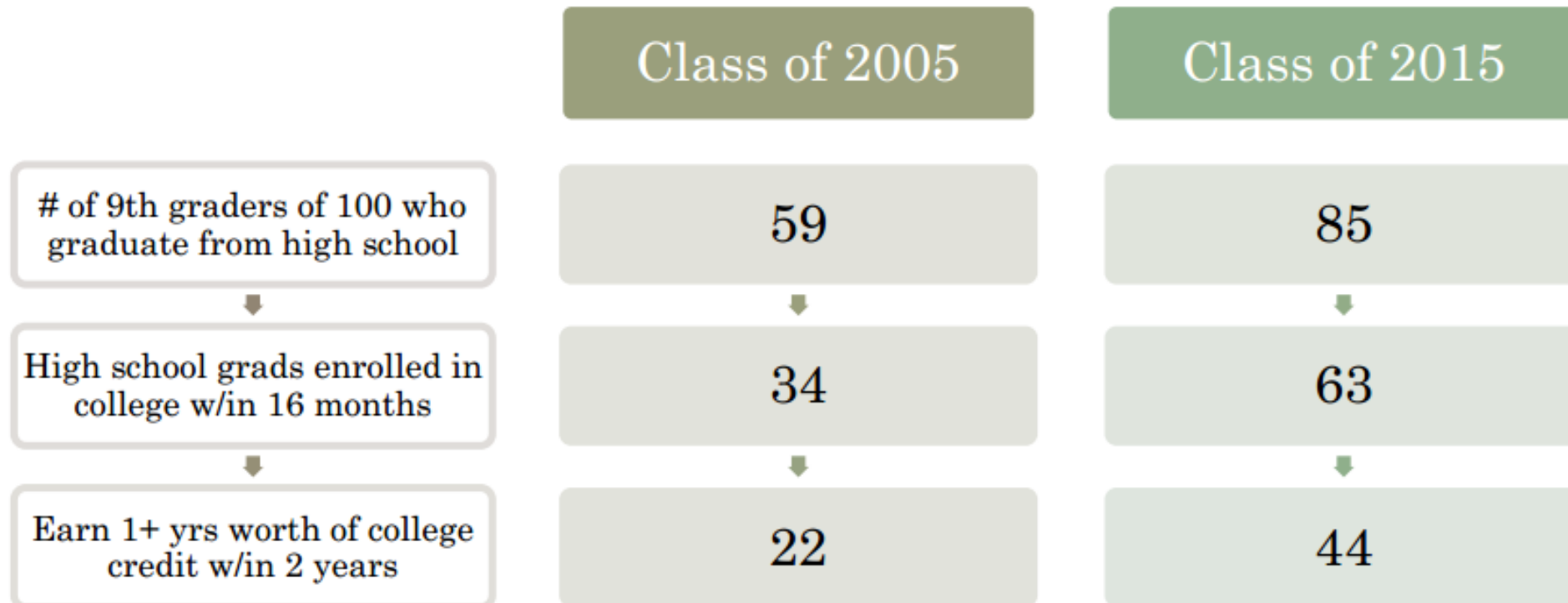
Helping students plan in advance for their academic and career track, minimizing excess attempted and completed hours.

Academic preparedness and financial preparedness are important for early college success and beyond.

Both high school and first-year college GPAs are predictive of college success, helping students understand the benefits of hard work.

Preparing and encouraging students to take 15 credits a semester.

Florida Goals for Increasing High School Graduates Who Earn College Credit

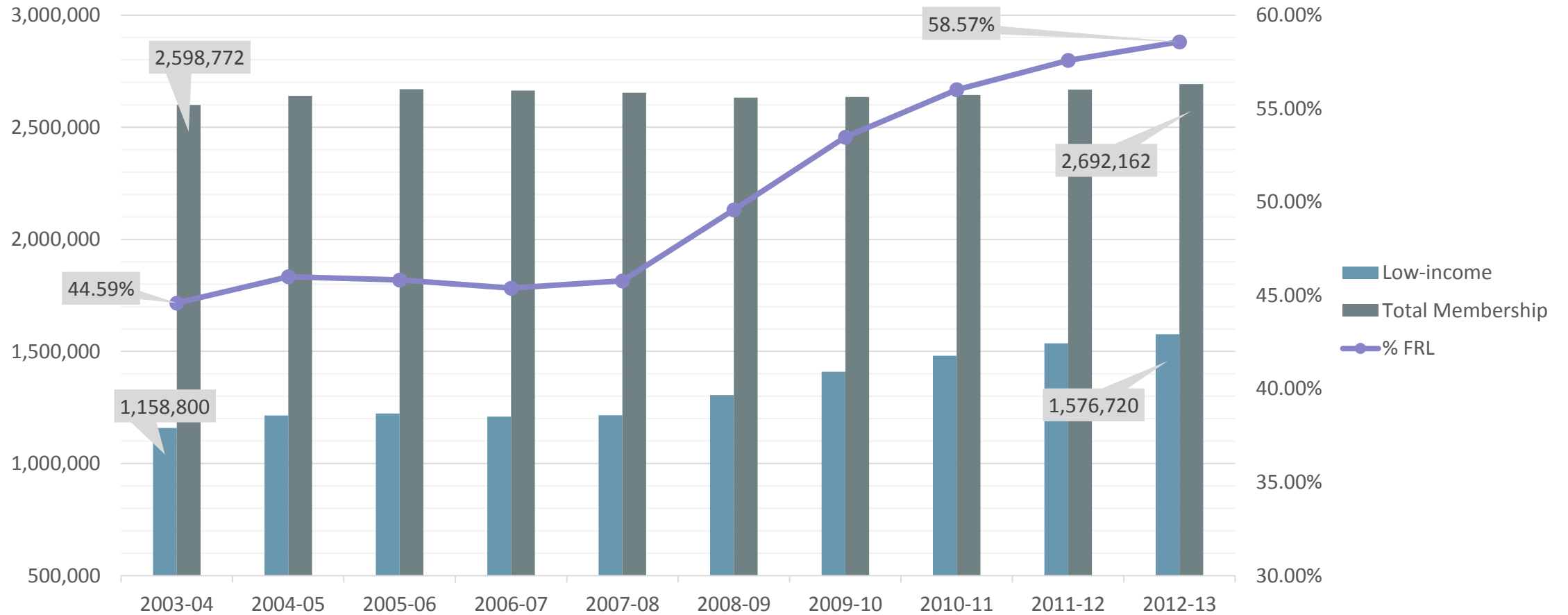


Source: Florida Department of Education



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Low-income trends of K-12 students



Florida College Access Network's Core Metrics

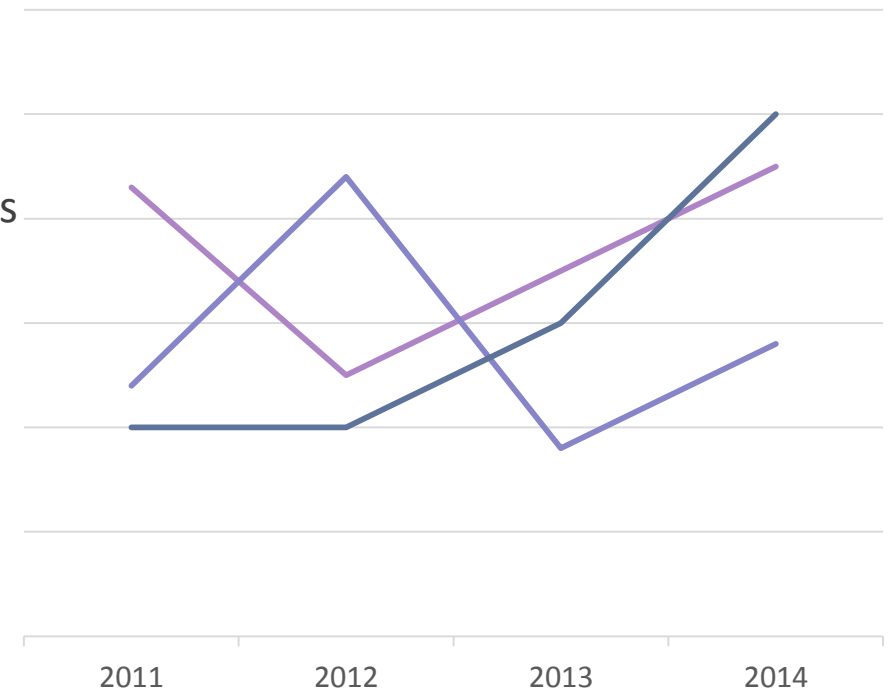


College and Career Readiness: Are they ready?

- Students' aspirations for college
- Complete standard high school diploma
- Meet college-ready benchmarks on college preparatory exams
- Performance in accelerated curricula

College Access and Affordability: Can they pay for it?

- Eligibility for state scholarships
- College-going rates of high school graduates
- Financial preparedness for postsecondary opportunities
- University/college access rate



Florida College Access Network's Core Metrics (cont.)



College Performance: How are they doing?

- Early credit accumulation
- College graduation rates

Adult Access and Completion: What about working adults?

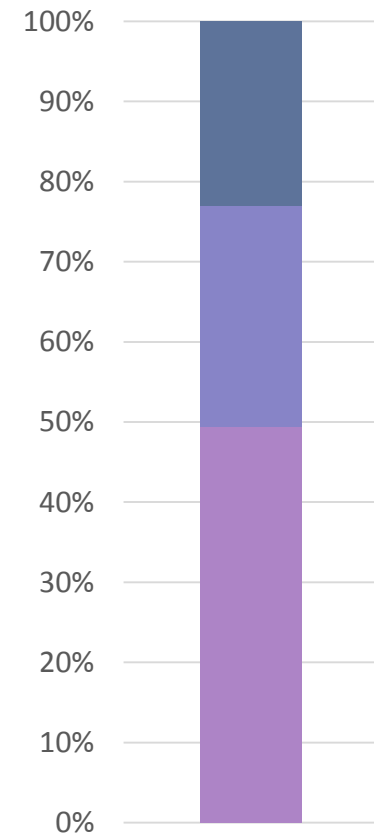
- Adults with some credit but no degree
- Adult access to postsecondary opportunities

Workforce and Economic Outcomes: Does it pay off?

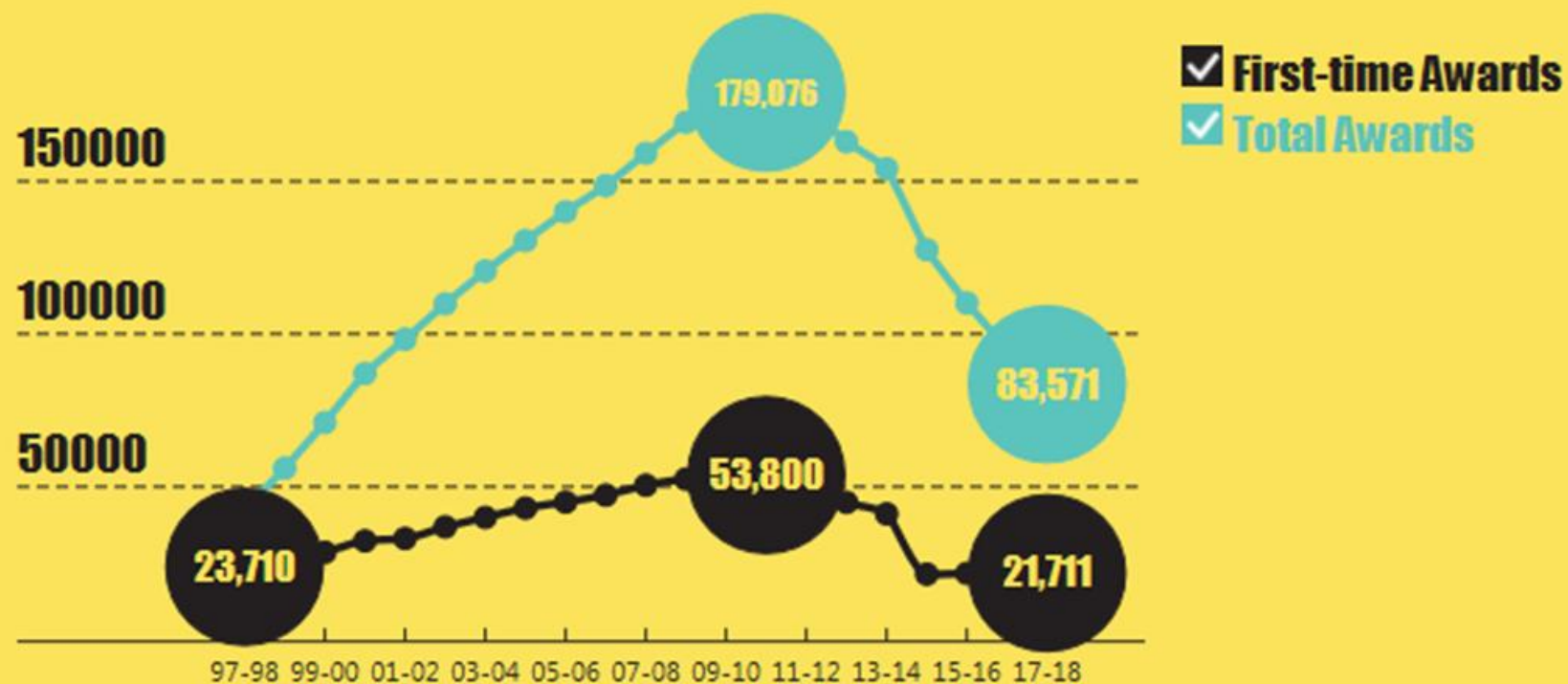
- Median first-year earnings
- Graduate placement

College Attainment: Are we making progress toward the Big Goal?

- Adults with a postsecondary credential
- Young adults with a postsecondary credential



Annual Bright Futures Awards to 2017-18



Average Bright Futures Award in 2012-13

\$1,915 /yr

An all-time low

Bright Futures once provided 1 in 3 high school graduates with a college scholarship. This year only 1 in 8 will earn one. To read more about how Bright Futures is changing, visit floridacollegeaccess.org/research-and-data/



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Questions?