



Building momentum for postsecondary success

STRONG START TO FINISH AND THE
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES

Your education policy team.

STRONG START TO FINISH SCALING WORK

STRONG START TO FINISH IS A NETWORK OF COMMITTED HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS AND PHILANTHROPISTS, WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING EQUITY TO EDUCATION BY SUPPORTING CHANGE AT SCALE IN EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND PRACTICE ACROSS THE NATION.

SELECTION PROCESS

Identifying Leaders

- 47 Letters of Interest
- 9 Invited Requests for Proposals
- 4 “Scaling Sites”

The City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY will use SSTF funds to support faculty-led work replacing traditional, stand-alone remedial courses with high-impact co-requisite courses and workshops. Grant funds will be used to create time for faculty teams at CUNY’s 10 associate-granting colleges to develop co-requisite courses and provide professional development to faculty interested in teaching these courses. CUNY aims to double the number of new students completing math and English gateway courses each year to 16,000 and reduce achievement gaps between black or Hispanic students and Asian or white students.

Ohio Department of Higher Education

Ohio has a robust performance funding system to stimulate improvement, but widespread change is challenging to achieve across the state’s decentralized system. Postsecondary leaders are committed to deepen engagement and ownership of change among individual institutions and faculties. Eighteen community colleges and twelve universities will participate in the grant. Currently, only 33% of first time students at participating institutions complete college-level math and English in their first year. Leaders in Ohio have committed to increase that number to 50% by 2021, including reducing equity gaps for economically disadvantaged students, students of color, rural students and students over age 25.

State University of New York (SUNY)

SUNY is the largest postsecondary system in the nation. All 30 of its community colleges and nine four-year colleges will be directly engaged in the SSTF grant. Developmental education will transform to become an “on-ramp” to guided pathways with multiple measures for placement, advising reforms and integrated student supports to ensure access and equity and help more students of color, low income students and returning adults to succeed. SSTF funds will be used to expand use of Quantway/ Statway Math Pathways to ensure that students enroll and succeed in math classes appropriate to their chosen academic area; supports needed for success in English will also be expanded systemwide.

University System of Georgia (USG)

USG is the nation’s fifth largest system by total student enrollment and will engage all 28 of its institutions in the grant. SSTF funds will support systematic expansion of the state’s Momentum Year program to ensure each incoming student successfully completes appropriate gateway math and English courses and enters a chosen academic focus area. Students will be encouraged to develop an academic mindset and attempt 30 degree-hours including a minimum of three courses in their chosen academic focus area. Extra support will be provided where needed alongside or embedded in their coursework as a “corequisite” rather than a pre-requisite to credit-bearing work.

WHY SUNY?

- COLLABORATION BETWEEN FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS IN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP
- EXPANSION OF BOTH MATH AND ENGLISH SUCCESS THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED REFORMS
- THOUGHTFUL USE OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO ACHIEVE CHANGE AT SCALE
- COMMITMENT TO SCALING GUIDED PATHWAYS
- TARGETED INTERVENTION FOR THE ADULT LEARNER POPULATION VIA TECHNICAL PATHWAYS
- COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH VIA PARTNERSHIP WITH CCRC ON INSTITUTIONAL