



# Higher Education Financial Stability Advisory Board

September 9, 2024

Your Community. Your College.



In July of 2023,  
CT State became the  
**LARGEST COLLEGE**  
in Connecticut. Currently  
enrolling **64,883** students.

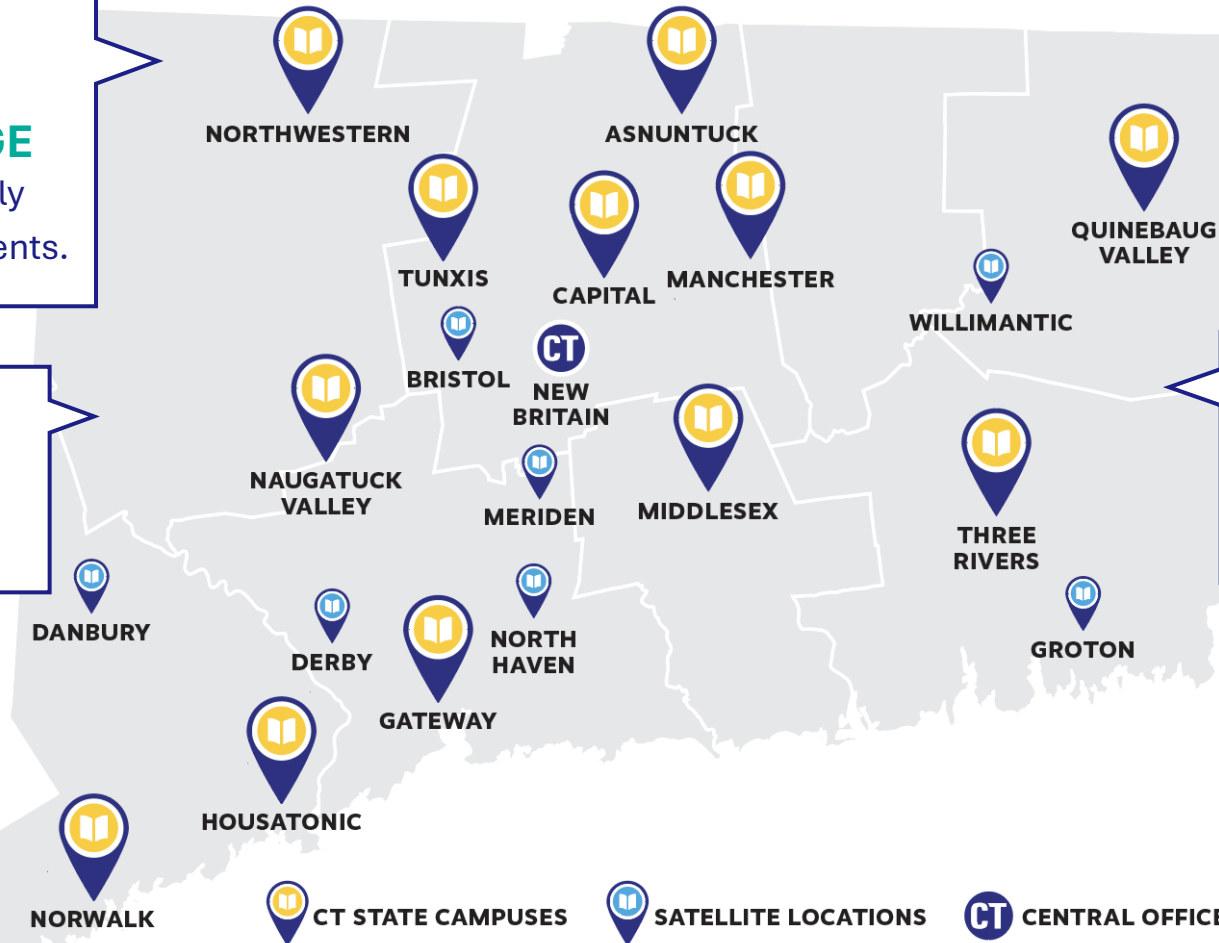
We serve **25%** of  
all undergraduate  
students in  
Connecticut.

We serve over  
**5,000** dual-enrolled  
high school students.

Connecticut's  
community colleges  
have a 60-year history  
of educating **250,000**  
alumni.

Over **90%** of our  
alumni remain in  
Connecticut and are  
Connecticut taxpayers.

**57%** are students of  
color; we are a  
minority-majority  
institution.





## Credit Student Profile



**40,320**

**Are Degree-Seekers**

Others are pursuing a certificate or short-term workforce training.

**27,166**

**Are First Generation Students**

**38,829**

**Attend Part-Time**

**27,952**

**Are Students of Color**

We are a minority-majority institution.

**30,000**

**Work While Going to School**

6,300 are parents attending school.

**11,000**

**Are Latine**

Five of our campuses are Hispanic-serving institutions.

**15,071**

**Attend Classes at More Than One CT State Campus**

(up from about 600 per term pre-merger)

**2,500**

**Have a Disability or Accommodation Needs**

**300**

Credit Programs

**15:1**

Student to Faculty Ratio

**221:1**

Student to Advisor Ratio

*98% of CT State students are from Connecticut, representing all CT school districts.*



## Allied Health and Nursing

*Largest Producer of Health Career Grads in CT*

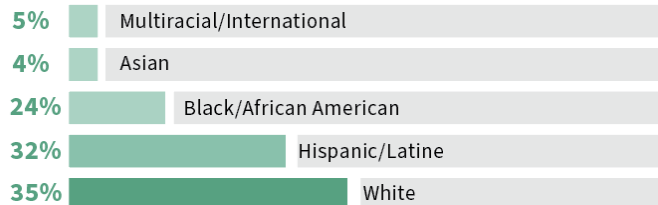
**32** Credit and Non-Credit Programs

**8,300** Annually Enrolled Students

**1,804** Free Tuition Students Enrolled

**98%** NCLEX-RN Pass Rate

**\$86K/YR** or \$40/HR, average wage for a starting registered nurse



## Information Technology and Computer Science

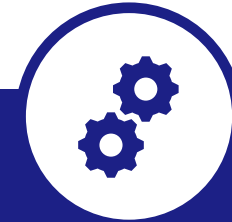
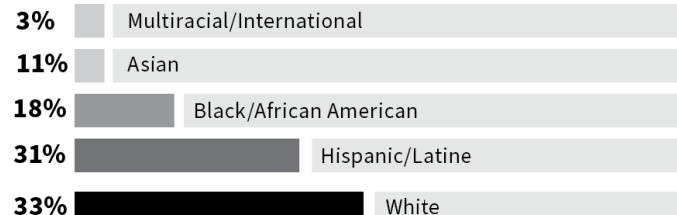
*Leading Producer of IT Professionals in CT*

**46** Credit and Non-Credit Programs

**2,500** Annually Enrolled Students

**776** Free Tuition Students Enrolled

**\$42K/YR** or \$21/HR, entry level wage for IT workers in Connecticut



## Manufacturing

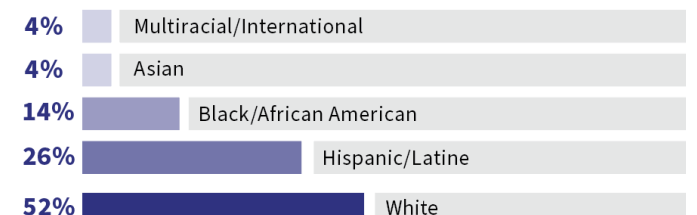
*Leading Producer of Manufacturing Professionals in CT*

**50** Credit and Non-Credit Programs

**2,400** Annually Enrolled Students

**317** Free Tuition Students Enrolled

**\$59K/YR** Job Placement Rate or \$29/HR, average wage for mechatronics



## Student Financial Aid Keeps CT State Affordable

### Fall 2024 Distribution

- 59% Free Tuition
- 58% Pell Grant
- 39% Free Tuition and Pell Grant
- 6% Loans
- 4% Pell Grant and Loans
- 2% Free Tuition and Loans
- 1% Free Tuition, Pell Grant and Loans

**27,128**  
Students

**59%**  
of students **paid \$0**  
in tuition and fees due  
to grant aid

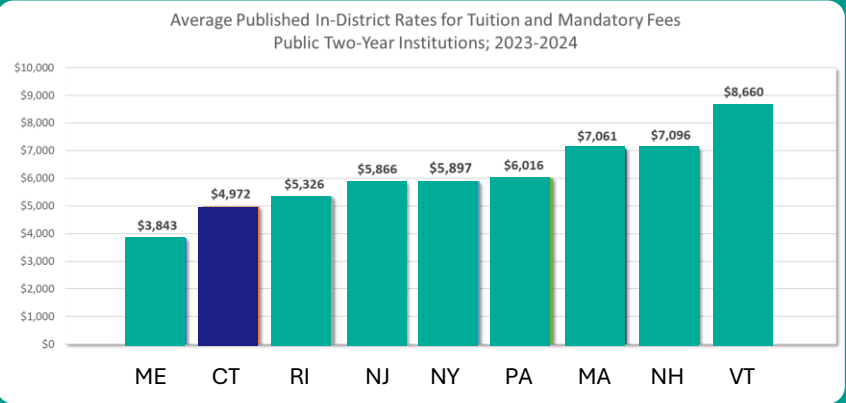
Among the **most affordable**  
education in the region  
**\$5,218/YR** tuition



Serving the **largest number of**  
**college students** in the state  
**with the most need**



# A Balancing Act



## Wrap Around Student Support Services Proven to Enhance Student Outcomes

- Disability and Accessibility Services
- Food Security Programs
- Mental Health and Wellness Counseling
- Guided Pathway Advising
- On-campus Childcare Centers
- Veterans OASIS Centers
- Discounted Transportation
- Laptop Loan Programs
- And more





## About Free Tuition

- Established in 2019
- Amended three times since inception
- Covers tuition and fees as a last-dollar award
- Available for up to 72 earned credits
- Does not factor student loans into award
- Created to curb student debt and support completion
- Cost-effective way to earn an associate degree and transfer

**23,615**

Students in the  
Free Tuition program over the  
program's four complete years

Totaling

**\$56.1m**

in funding

## Eligibility History



### 2020-2021 Program Eligibility

- New, 1st Time Student in Fall 2020 or Later
- Must Enroll Full-Time
- Graduate from a CT High School
- Must Be Continuously Enrolled (Fall and Spring)
- Awards Equal to the Unpaid Portion of Tuition and Fees After Accepted Grant Aid, or \$250

### 2024-2025 Program Eligibility

- **Began Any College** Fall 2020 or Later
- Can Enroll Full-Time **or Part-Time (6+ Credits)**
- Graduate from **Any High School**
- **No Continuous Enrollment** Required
- Awards Equal to the Unpaid Portion of Tuition and Fees After Accepted Grant Aid, **or \$500 (FT), or \$300 (PT)**

***Eligibility that did not change includes:*** CT Residency Required; File a FAFSA Annually; Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements.

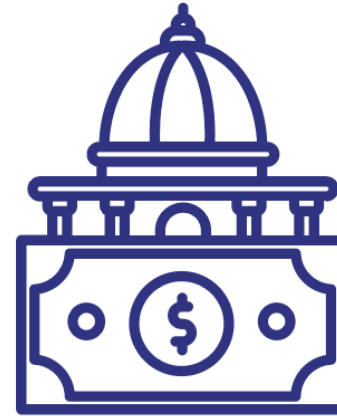


**Free Tuition program  
and Guided  
Pathways Advising  
works together to  
improve student  
persistence rates  
and close equity  
gaps.**

Guided Pathway Advising



Free Tuition Program



Greater Outcomes



## Semester Persistence Rate Increases



**18.53%**

Black/African American  
with Guided Pathway  
Advising



**29.55%**

Black/African American  
with Guided Pathway  
Advising **AND** Free Tuition



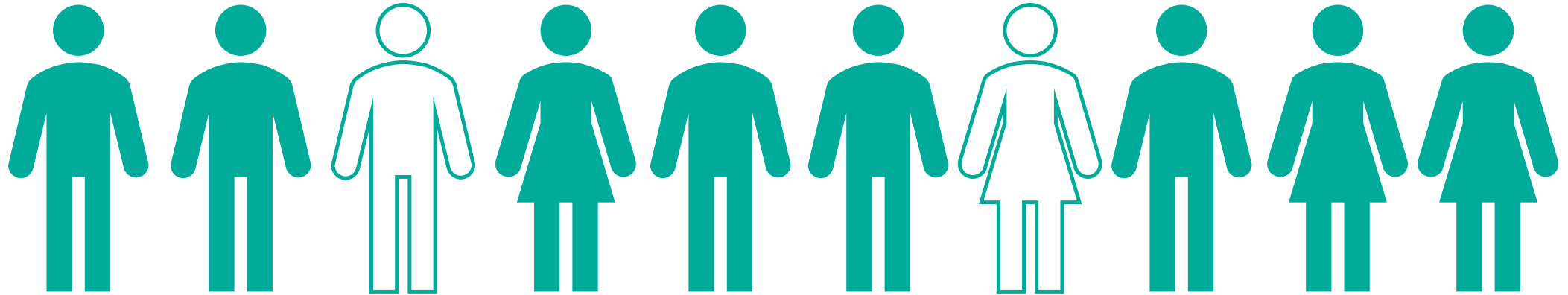
**14.4%**

Hispanic/Latino with  
Guided Pathway  
Advising



**29.2%**

Hispanic/Latino with  
Guided Pathway Advising  
**AND** Free Tuition



## Areas to Serve More Populations

- Workforce Development/Non-credit Students (12,824)
- Students with any college enrollment prior to Fall 2020
- Out-of-State/Country Residency Status
- Students ineligible to complete a FAFSA
  - Undocumented, DACA
- Students attending less-than-half-time
  - Exceptions: Transitional students, students in final semester



**Thank You**

---

**CT STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# Appendix

---

**CT STATE**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Fall 2024 Distribution

### 2024-2025 (YTD)

Fund*	Recipients	Authorized	%
Federal Pell Grant	15,802	\$ 40,176,625	54.1%
Federal SEOG	5,891	\$ 1,641,000	2.2%
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	1,533	\$ 2,896,735	3.9%
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	1,429	\$ 3,823,558	5.1%
Federal Direct PLUS Loan	8	\$ 41,272	0.1%
Federal Work Study	0	\$ -	0.0%
Free Tuition	15,952	\$ 13,485,837	18.1%
CT State Grant	6,250	\$ 11,236,018	15.1%
CT State Grant - Undocumented	339	\$ 822,510	1.1%
Private Loans	36	\$ 185,611	0.2%
<b>Unduplicated Total*</b>	<b>27,128</b>	<b>\$ 74,309,166</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Recipients can exist in across multiple funds

### 2023-2024

Fund*	Recipients	Disbursed	%
Federal Pell Grant	18,573	\$ 68,381,215	52.5%
Federal SEOG	2,628	\$ 1,414,778	1.1%
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan	3,260	\$ 9,954,364	7.6%
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan	2,805	\$ 11,107,717	8.5%
Federal Direct PLUS Loan	14	\$ 128,980	0.1%
Federal Work Study	343	\$ 1,393,762	1.1%
Free Tuition	13,007	\$ 23,003,639	17.6%
CT State Grant	7,378	\$ 12,943,870	9.9%
CT State Grant - Undocumented	389	\$ 1,484,118	1.1%
Private Loans	92	\$ 528,670	0.4%
<b>Unduplicated Total*</b>	<b>26,645</b>	<b>\$ 130,341,113</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Recipients can exist in across multiple funds

## Semester Persistence Increases from 60.25% to 77.14% When Considering Free Tuition Assistance Alone

No Free Tuition		
Appointment Frequency	Did Not Persist	Persisted
Never Met with a Guided Pathways Advisor	39.75%	60.25%
White	35.79%	64.21%
Hispanic/Latino	41.99%	58.01%
Black or African American	46.99%	53.01%
Asian	37.73%	62.27%
American Indian or Alaska Native	35.00%	65.00%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	35.29%	64.71%
Race and ethnicity unknown	42.60%	57.40%
U.S. Nonresident	25.00%	75.00%

Free Tuition		
Appointment Frequency	Did Not Persist	Persisted
Never Met with a Guided Pathways Advisor	22.86%	77.14%
White	18.48%	81.52%
Hispanic/Latino	27.59%	72.41%
Black or African American	28.48%	71.52%
Asian	13.04%	86.96%
American Indian or Alaska Native	50.00%	50.00%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	100.00%
Race and ethnicity unknown	22.74%	77.26%
U.S. Nonresident	0.00%	100.00%

*\*To demonstrate the impact of free tuition on student persistence rates, CT State isolated the average persistence percentages for students who received free tuition and those who didn't, but **both** never had a documented meaningful interaction with a Guided Pathways Advisor.*

*\*A meaningful interaction (documented) is considered an advising appointment with a Guided Pathways Advisor lasting at least 7-10 minutes in either one of the several modalities (In-Person, Virtual, or Phone)*

*\*Fall 2023-Spring 2024 Data*

## Semester Persistence Increases from 60.25% to 88.45% When We Add GPA Services (compounding effect)

No Free Tuition		
Appointment Frequency	Did Not Persist	Persisted
Never Met with a Guided Pathways Advisor	39.75%	60.25%
White	35.79%	64.21%
Hispanic/Latino	41.99%	58.01%
Black or African American	46.99%	53.01%
Asian	37.73%	62.27%
American Indian or Alaska Native	35.00%	65.00%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	35.29%	64.71%
Race and ethnicity unknown	42.60%	57.40%
U.S. Nonresident	25.00%	75.00%

Free Tuition		
Appointment Frequency	Did Not Persist	Persisted
Met with a Guided Pathways Advisor Once	11.55%	88.45%
White	8.88%	91.12%
Hispanic/Latino	12.79%	87.21%
Black or African American	17.44%	82.56%
Asian	10.07%	89.93%
American Indian or Alaska Native	12.50%	87.50%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	10.00%	90.00%
Race and ethnicity unknown	12.95%	87.05%
U.S. Nonresident	0.00%	100.00%

*\*When we compare averages for students who never met with a Guided Pathways advisor and never received free tuition (PACT) against students who did receive free tuition (PACT) and had (1) documented meaningful interaction with a Guided Pathways Advisor, we see the following results:*

*\*A meaningful interaction (documented) is considered an advising appointment with a Guided Pathways Advisor lasting at least 7-10 minutes in either one of the several modalities (In-Person, Virtual, or Phone*

*\*Fall 2023-Spring 2024 Data*



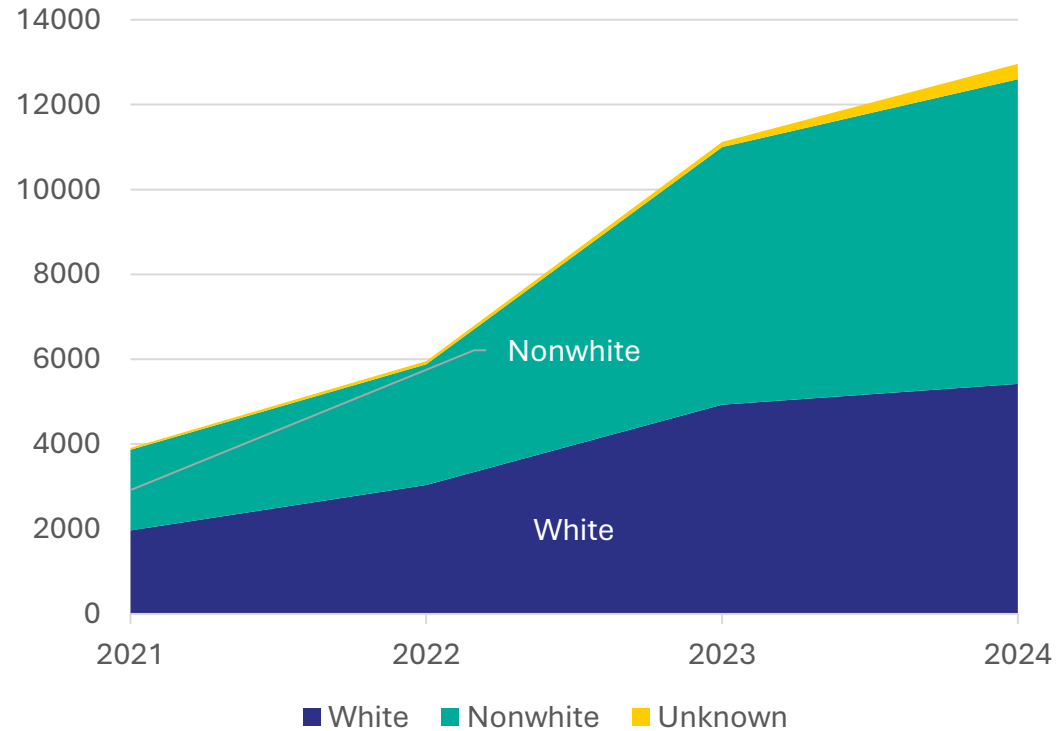
## How CT State is Closing Income Disparities with Free Tuition

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>11,120</b>	<b>12,963</b>	<b>15,952</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	1,137	1,713	3,701	4,454	5,549
- Average Family Income	\$59,493	\$55,493	\$51,696	\$54,921	\$65,253
- Average Age	22.1	21.2	21.2	20.7	20.4
<b>White</b>	2,462	3,882	6,647	7,483	8,728
- Average Family Income	\$89,273	\$95,013	\$90,551	\$97,152	\$104,960
- Average Age	22.3	21.5	21.4	21.1	20.5
<b>Black or African American</b>	619	893	1,987	2,359	3,216
- Average Family Income	\$53,373	\$51,031	\$49,404	\$52,966	\$65,053
- Average Age	22.3	21.5	21.6	21.5	21.3
<b>Asian</b>	114	203	362	452	695
- Average Family Income	\$68,666	\$79,621	\$65,620	\$75,970	\$78,158
- Average Age	21.9	21.2	21.2	20.6	21.6
<b>Multiple</b>	221	332	662	769	891
- Average Family Income	\$65,494	\$78,886	\$67,930	\$75,531	\$76,486
- Average Age	22.0	21.3	21.4	20.7	19.8
<b>Other or Unknown</b>	495	648	1,462	1,900	2,428
- Average Family Income	\$56,594	\$54,574	\$50,381	\$32,491	\$65,722
- Average Age	21.8	21.3	21.1	20.6	20.5

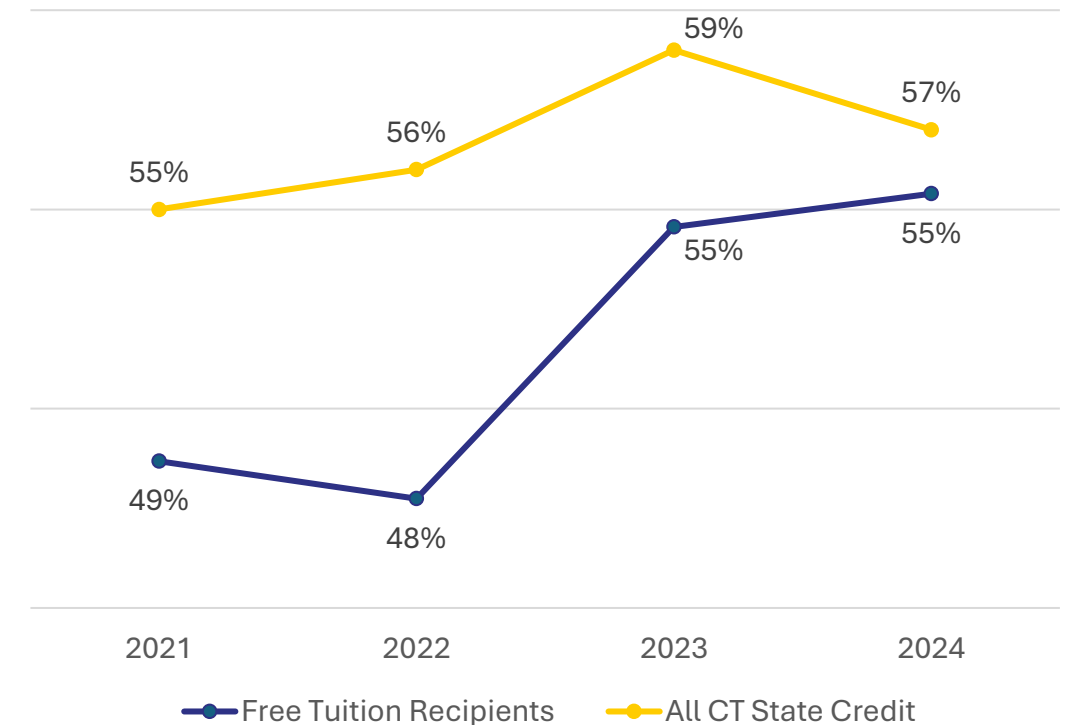
\*Data is unofficial as of September 3, 2024, and is subject to change.

## As Program Eligibility Expands to Part-Time Students and Non-Continuous Enrollment, the Program Serves a More Diverse Population

### Recipients by Race



### Nonwhite Student Share



## Free Tuition Program & Guided Pathways Advisors Work Together to Improve Student Outcomes & Close Equity Gaps

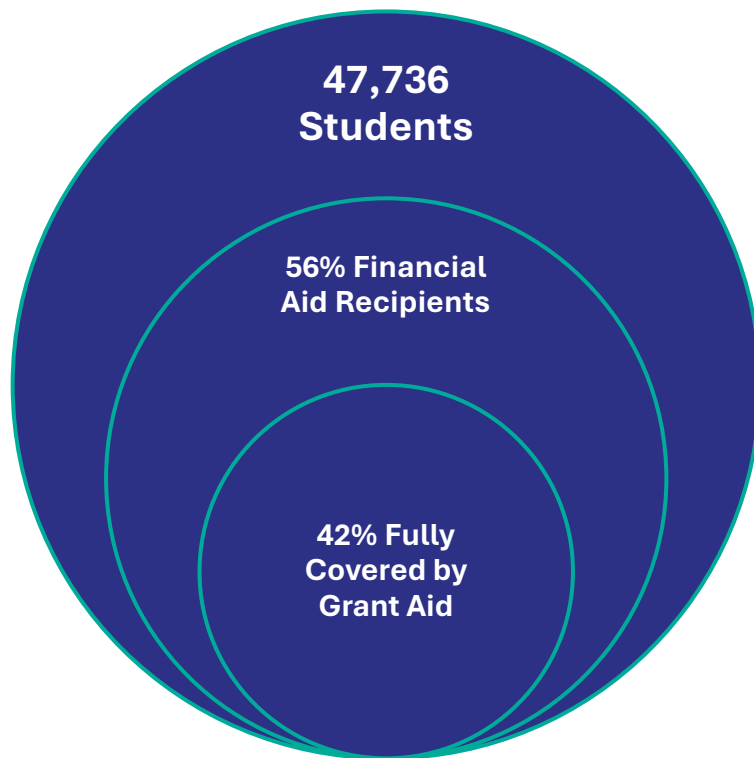
1. When our Black Male student population receives free tuition at CT State their semester-to-semester persistence rate increases, on average, 14.49% (to 67.49% FA 23-SP24 persistence rate)
  - When that same student population has two or more documented meaningful interaction with a Guided Pathways Advisor, that percentage increases, on average, 36.86% (to 89.86% FA 23-SP24 persistence rate) resulting in only a 2.61% difference between their white peers with the same circumstances.
2. When accounting for free tuition and having two or more documented meaningful interactions with a Guided Pathways Advisor, our Hispanic / Latino female students at CT State persist at the same rate as our White female students (to over 91% FA 23-SP24 persistence rate).

## Funding & Expenditure History

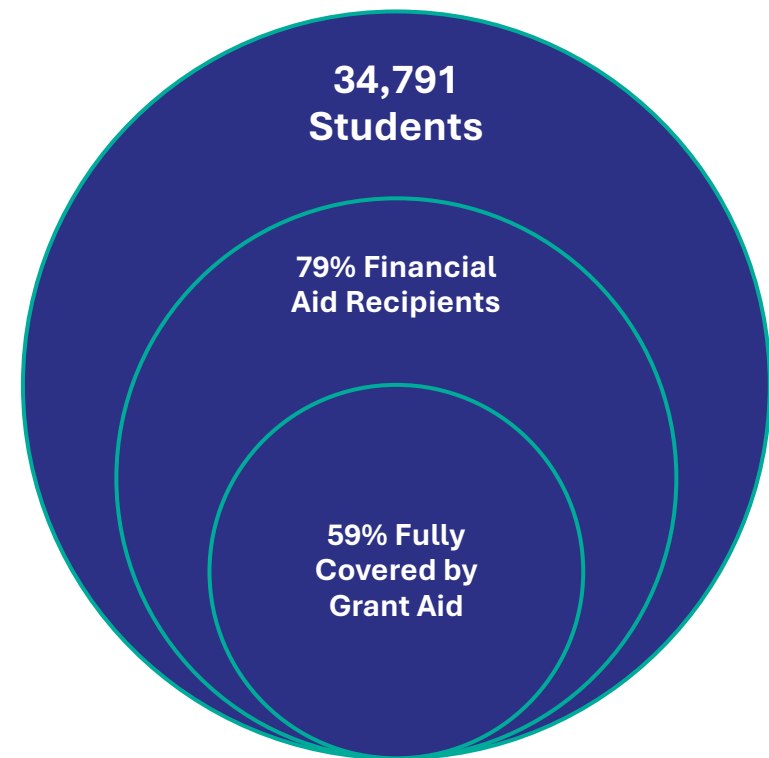
Free College Revenue				Free College Expenditures			
	State Appropriation	Other (Reserves/ Carryforward/ One-time Aid)	Total Available		Student Aid	Marketing	Total
FY21	\$ -	\$ 6,032,647	\$ 6,032,647	FY21	\$ 6,032,647		\$ 6,032,647
FY22	\$ 14,000,000		\$ 14,000,000	FY22	\$ 10,086,726	\$ 700,000	\$ 10,786,726
FY23	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 2,041,943	\$ 17,041,943	FY23	\$ 17,041,943		\$ 17,041,943
FY24	\$ 23,500,000		\$ 23,500,000	FY24	\$ 23,008,461	\$ 211,000	\$ 23,219,461
FY25	\$ 28,500,000	\$ 5,650,000	\$ 34,150,000	FY25			

## Student Financial Aid Makes CT State Affordable

**2023-2024**  
(Complete Year)



**2024-2025**  
(Fall Only as of 8/28/24)



## Award History

Award Year	Fall	Awards	Spring	Awards	Total Recipients	Total Awards
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>\$ 3,439,388</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>\$ 2,631,414</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>\$ 6,070,802</b>
- Minimum Grant	2,063	\$ 515,750	1,488	\$ 372,000	3,551	\$ 887,750
- Unpaid Portion	1,397	\$ 2,923,638	1,063	\$ 2,259,414	2,460	\$ 5,183,052
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>\$ 5,351,719</b>	<b>4,263</b>	<b>\$ 4,700,382</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>\$ 10,052,101</b>
- Minimum Grant	3,344	\$ 836,000	2,477	\$ 619,250	5,821	\$ 1,455,250
- Unpaid Portion	1,960	\$ 4,515,719	1,786	\$ 4,081,132	3,746	\$ 8,596,851
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>10,393</b>	<b>\$ 7,563,571</b>	<b>8,392</b>	<b>\$ 7,799,200</b>	<b>11,120</b>	<b>\$ 15,362,771</b>
- Minimum Grant	6,748	\$ 1,436,000	4,825	\$ 984,850	11,573	\$ 2,420,850
- Unpaid Portion	3,645	\$ 6,127,571	3,567	\$ 6,814,350	7,212	\$ 12,941,921
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>11,649</b>	<b>\$ 12,066,148</b>	<b>10,103</b>	<b>\$ 10,937,490</b>	<b>12,970</b>	<b>\$ 23,003,638</b>
- Minimum Grant	6,740	\$ 1,393,100	5,548	\$ 1,117,300	12,288	\$ 2,510,400
- Unpaid Portion	4,909	\$ 10,673,048	4,555	\$ 9,820,190	9,464	\$ 20,493,238
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>15,952</b>	<b>\$ 13,485,837</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>15,952</b>	<b>\$ 13,485,837</b>
- Minimum Grant	12,251	\$ 4,960,900	0	\$ -	12,251	\$ 4,960,900
- Unpaid Portion	3,701	\$ 8,524,937	0	\$ -	3,701	\$ 8,524,937

Through the first four years of the program FY 21-FY 24:

- 23,615 unique Free Tuition recipients
- \$48.9M awarded toward the unpaid portion of tuition and fees
- \$7.3M awarded toward minimum grants

## Comparison of Minimum Award vs. Unpaid Portion

- Shift in eligible students in 2024-25
  - +18% in Minimum Grant
  - -18% in Unpaid Portion
- Shift in fund distribution in 2024-25
  - +23% in Minimum Grant
  - -23% in Unpaid Portion
- Shift in unique recipients in 2024-25
  - Fall: +4,303

Award Year	Fall	Spring	Total Awards
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>\$ 6,070,802</b>
- Minimum Grant	60%	58%	15%
- Unpaid Portion	40%	42%	85%
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>4,263</b>	<b>\$ 10,052,101</b>
- Minimum Grant	63%	58%	14%
- Unpaid Portion	37%	42%	86%
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>10,393</b>	<b>8,392</b>	<b>\$ 15,362,771</b>
- Minimum Grant	65%	57%	16%
- Unpaid Portion	35%	43%	84%
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>11,649</b>	<b>10,103</b>	<b>\$ 23,003,638</b>
- Minimum Grant	58%	55%	11%
- Unpaid Portion	42%	45%	89%
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>15,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$ 13,485,837</b>
- Minimum Grant	77%	0%	37%
- Unpaid Portion	23%	0%	63%



## Recipient Retention by Race/Ethnicity, Free Tuition Status

