

Promise Program Task Force

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

- Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Chief Performance Officer at the Connecticut State Department of Education displayed data via EdSight, breaking down higher education funding, achievement levels, college credits received, college enrollment and completion and labor market outcomes, aggregated by high need and not high need students, low-income students, and English speaking students across the state.
- Working Groups-
 - Funding considerations for existing promise programs and how to create and support new programs-
 - Range of costs of \$3,500-4000 per student to pay for applications, fafsa, SAT prep and college success support coaching
 - Keeping talent in CT- some programs require students to stay in CT, helping the state and bringing new employers to the state
 - Creating a consultancy- having programs that are interested in starting that get the benefit of a consultancy that could help them getting promise programs established. Discussion on getting city and business buy ins.
 - New programs may take 5 years to get fully established. Depending on buy in from various cities and businesses.
 - Look to examples like Kalamazoo, California, Detroit and so on to learn from.
 - CT Promise Program-
 - State goals- increase access, persistence, completion and labor-market alignment.
 - Core principles- affordability, simplicity, equity, sustainability and accountability.
- Next meetings-
 - 11/5 at 12 via zoom
 - 11/19 at 12 via zoom
 - 12/3 at 12 in person
 - Potential follow up meeting 12/10
- Working groups will share information and add input into each others findings before report is submitted.