

SREB

Priorities for Raising College Student Success in the South

SREB Webinar

February 7, 2023



Student success = increasing access
and completion of postsecondary credentials
that lead to successful careers
and stronger economies

About SREB

SREB Challenge to Excel Goal: Postsecondary The percentage of state residents who earn a meaningful certificate or degree to ensure they are prepared for employment over the next decade will increase.

SREB's postsecondary work includes researching, convening and supporting action to help states in the South improve policies and practices to increase student success especially those from backgrounds such as:

- Low-income
- Rural
- First-generation
- Underrepresented racial and ethnic groups



SREB's Newest Postsecondary Report

Priorities for Raising College Student Success in the South

Report of the SREB
Student Success Advisory Council

Panelists

Dr. Robin Garrett

Deputy Chancellor
Academic and Student Success, Central Texas College



Dr. Jim Purcell

Executive Director
Alabama Commission on Higher Education

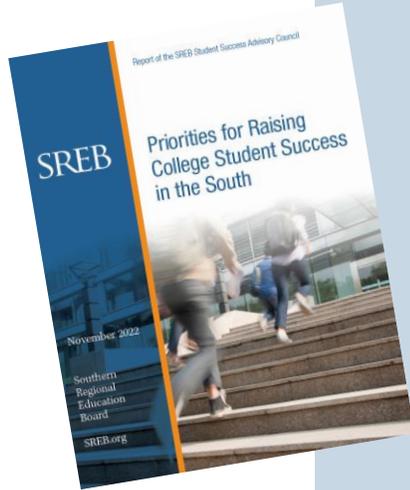


Dr. Yolanda Watson Spiva

President
Complete College America



Student Success Recommendations



Recommendations

This report of the Student Success Advisory Council offers recommendations for states and postsecondary institutions to consider in ways that address their unique needs, capacity and governance.

Affordability

1. Lower the student and family college cost burden for low- and middle-income populations.
2. Be transparent with students and families about the true out-of-pocket cost of college and the value of obtaining a college degree, and guide students toward degree paths that align with their skills and interests.
3. Support students to complete a degree or credential of value at a faster rate.

Student Success

4. Directly engage students in the development of comprehensive student success coaching models.
5. Centralize student success services with a concierge office staffed with trained success coaches.
6. Emulate, adapt, customize and modernize existing student success coaching models.

Workforce Preparation

7. Increase the focus on current and future workforce needs. State and college leaders should understand the importance for postsecondary education to adapt and align programs and articulate how this better serves students and supports the mission of their institution.
8. Improve data governance and use of education and workforce data.
9. Eliminate state policy and process barriers to academic program changes.
10. Continue to build relevant career pathways, with support as students transition to college and on to careers.

Challenges Facing Postsecondary Education

Affordability and financial aid (access)

Success services – advising, tutoring, wrap-around services

Academic programming tied to workforce or industry needs

Faculty training

Metrics and data-driven decision making

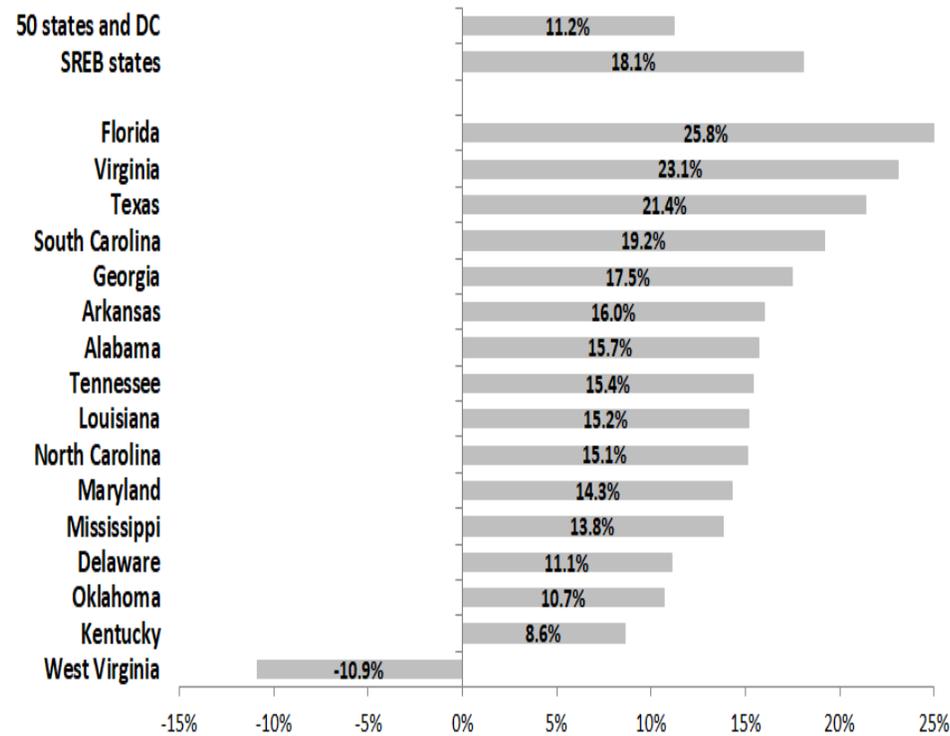
Federal and state funding policies

Aligning state and institutional policies

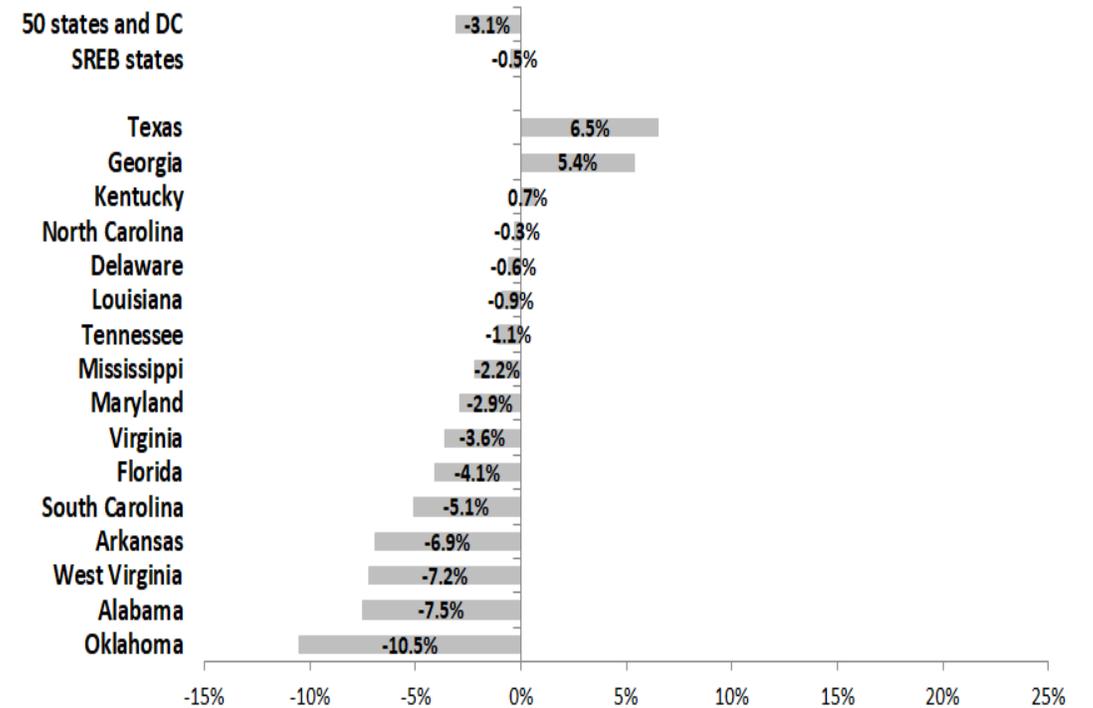


Enrollment

2007-2012



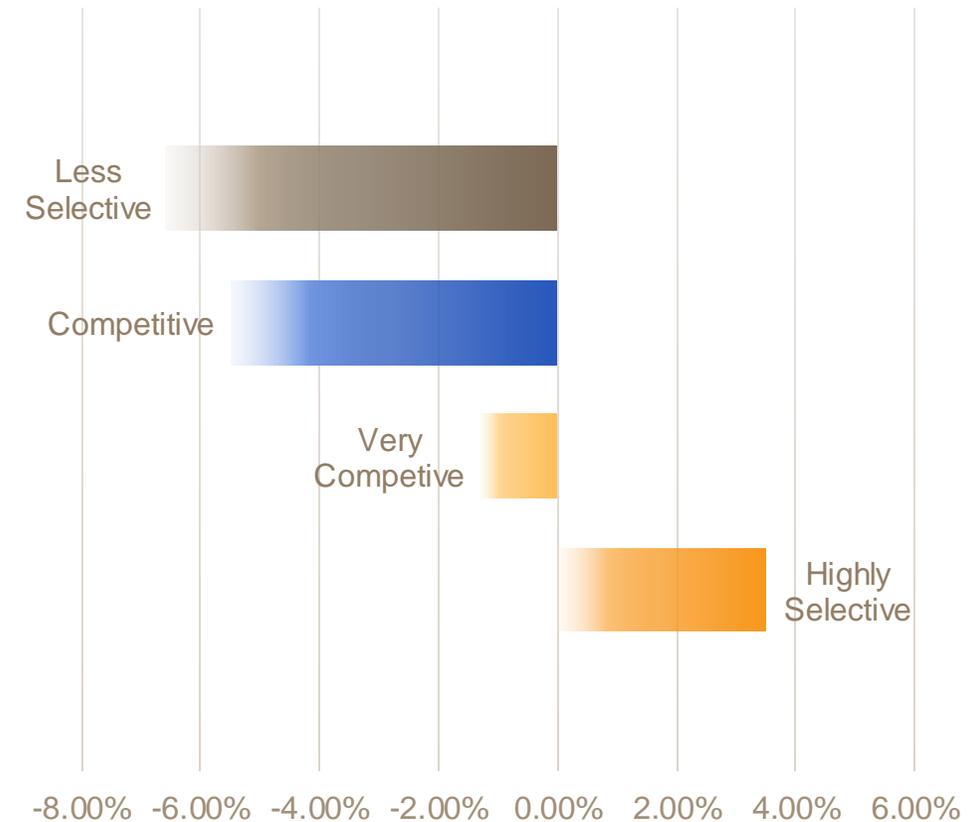
2014-2019



Enrollment

- According to data from the National Student Clearinghouse, the largest decreases are seen in less selective institutions.
- This could suggest that some high school graduates may be foregoing college in lieu of directly entering the workforce.

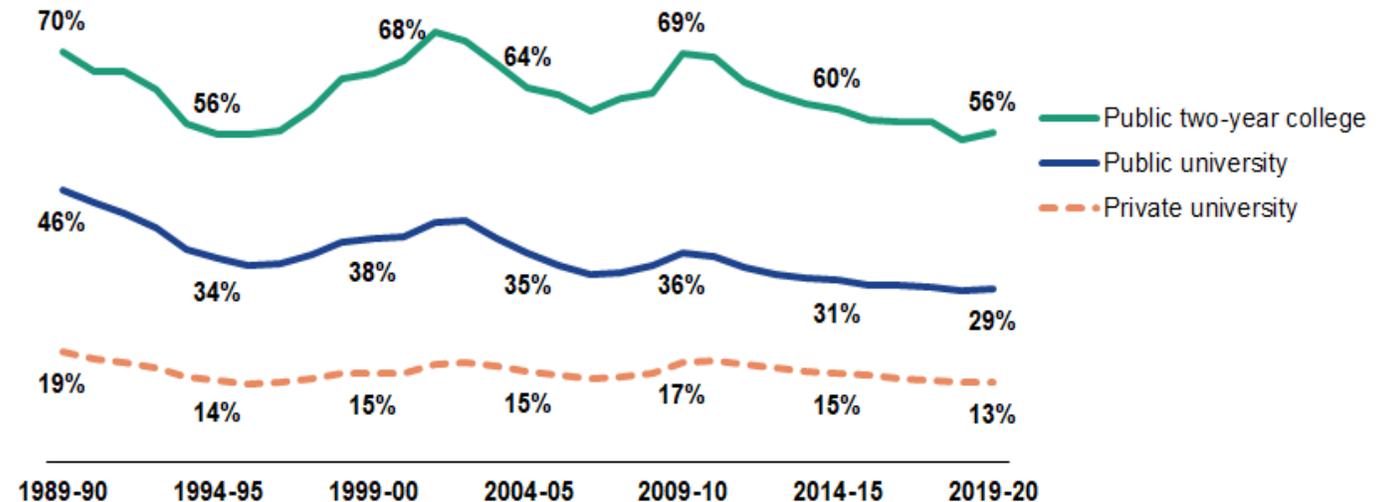
2020-22 UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT CHANGES AT 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS BY SELECTIVITY



Affordability

- Over the 30 Years, the cost of college has increased
- Pell grants have failed to keep up, covering less and less of the cost of college.
- This disproportionately affects the low-income students the hardest.

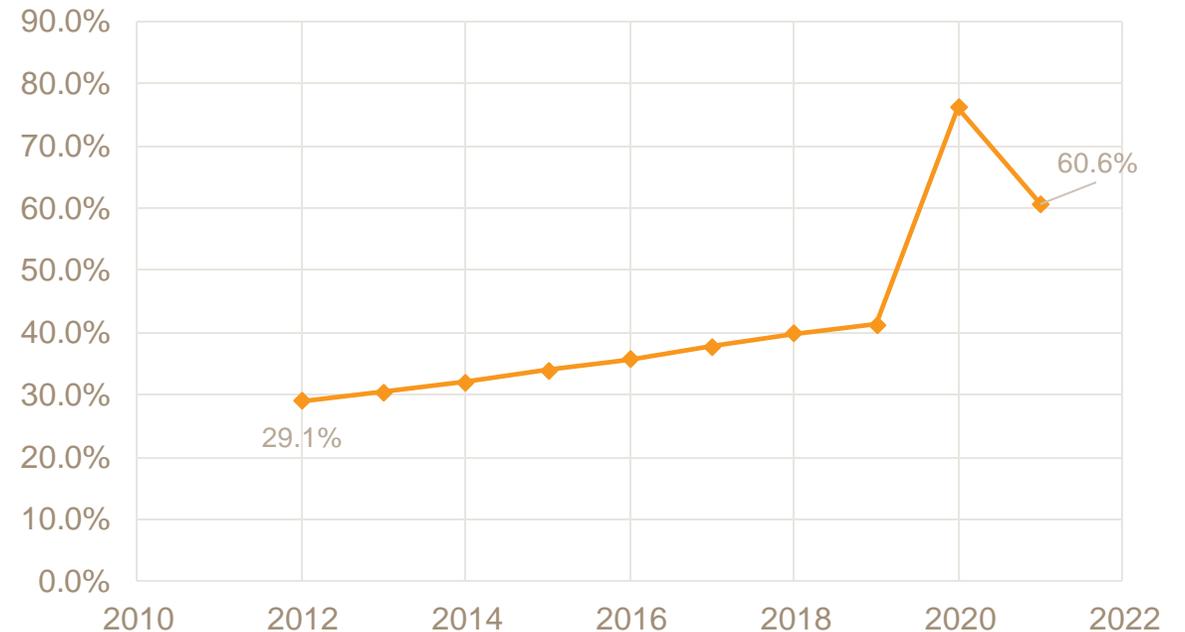
Percent of Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Covered by Maximum Federal Pell Grant, United States



Distance Education

The percent of students enrolled in distance education has risen from less than 30% in 2012 to over 60% in 2021.

PERCENT OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES



Mental Health

- Post-pandemic, more students are reporting mental health issues
- One study reports that in 2021, over 60% of students met the criteria for at least one mental health issue.
- This represents a nearly 50% increase compared to 2013
- The same study shows students of color utilize mental health services at lower rates than white students

Panelist Discussion

Postsecondary education challenges and the Student Success Advisory Council's student-centered focus

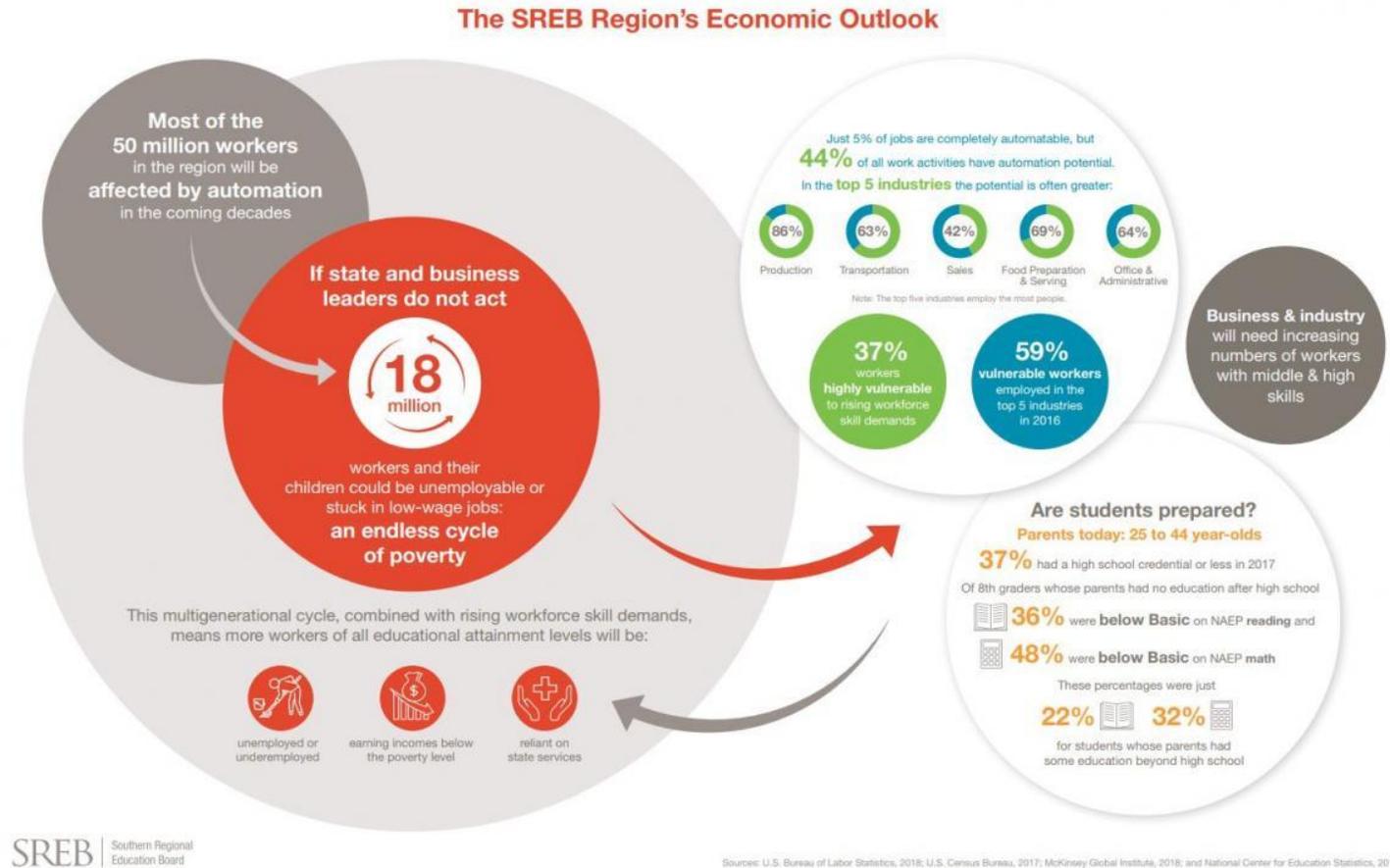
Audience Poll

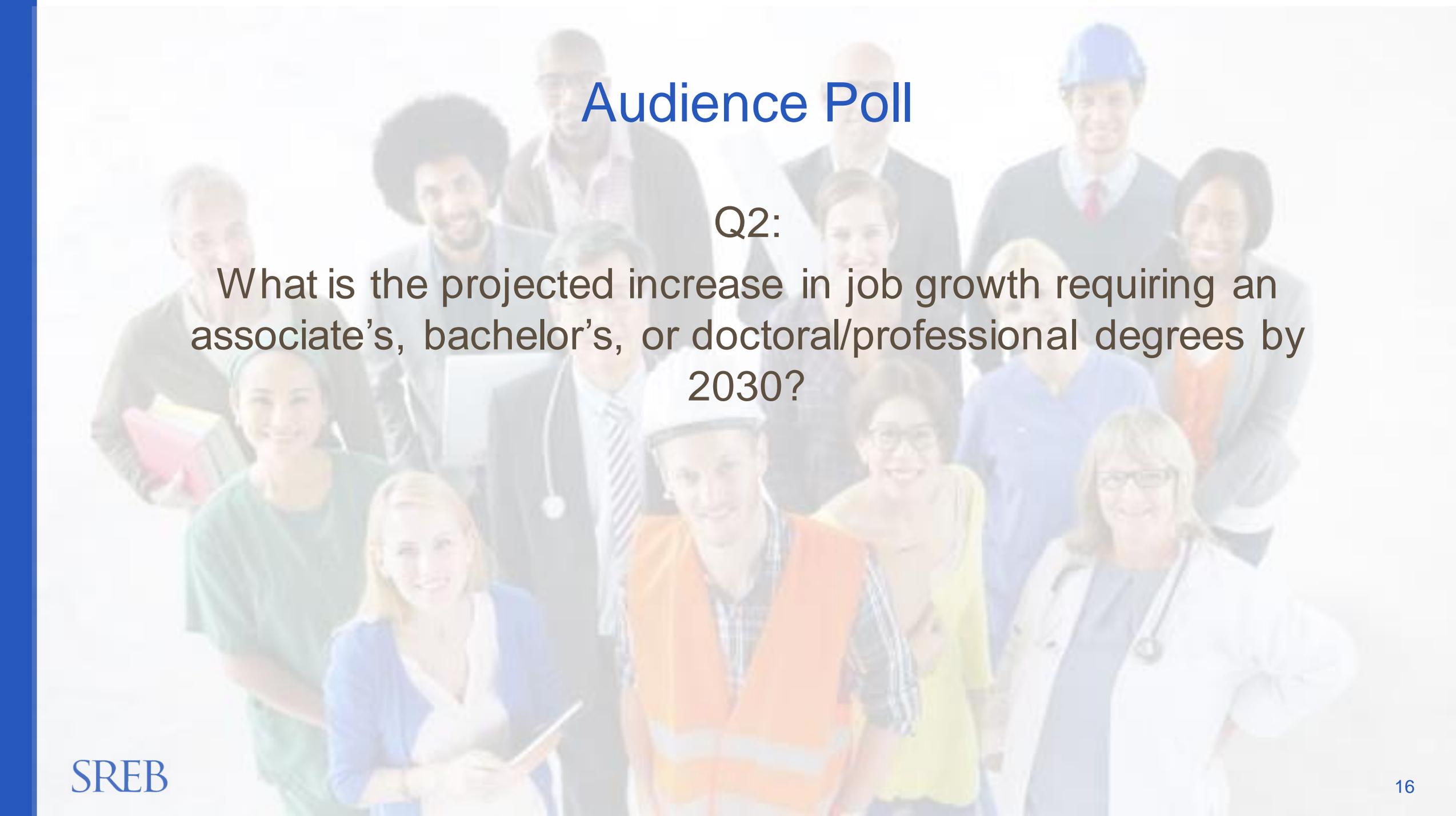
Q1:

How many millions of low-skilled workers could become unemployable or stuck earning poverty wages by 2025 if interventions are not taken to provide postsecondary courses, trainings or degree?

Q1 Answer

18 million workers in the SREB region could become unemployable or stuck earning poverty wages by 2025





Audience Poll

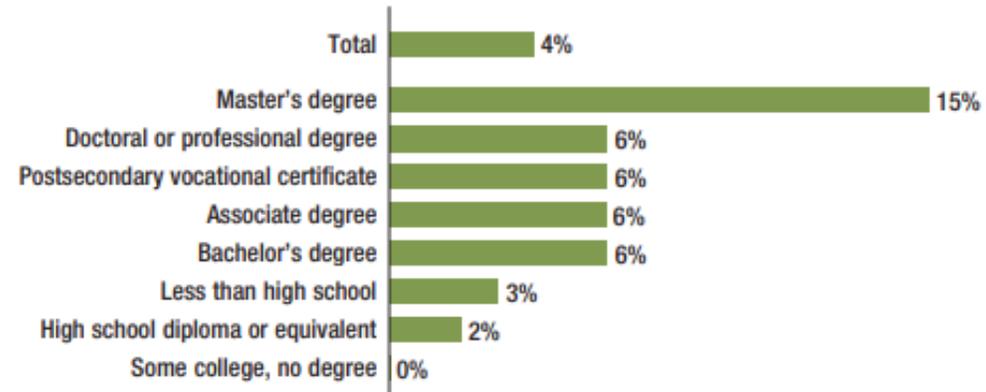
Q2:

What is the projected increase in job growth requiring an associate's, bachelor's, or doctoral/professional degrees by 2030?

Q2 Answer

6% projected increase in job growth for doctoral/professional, bachelor's, associate, vocational credentials

**Projected Increases in Employment by Education Required
United States, 2019 to 2029**



Notes: The occupational employment and growth rates shown here include projected growth in all jobs (both full- and part-time positions) from 2019 - 2029, not just entry-level jobs. Entry-level education reflects 2019 requirement; Bureau of Labor Statistics does not project educational requirements.

Source: Employment Projections Program, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Audience Poll

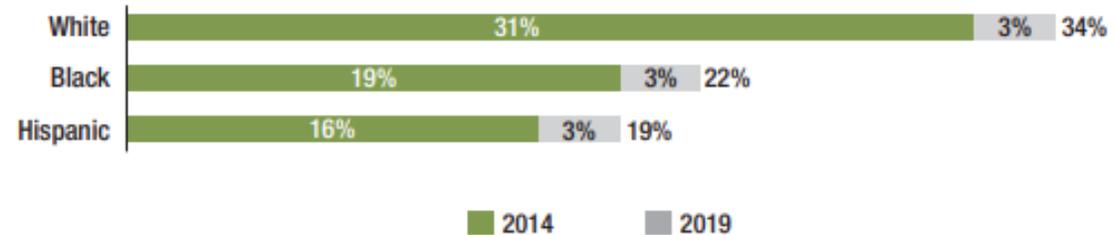
Q3:

What percent of adults in the SREB region hold a high school diploma or equivalent and what percent hold a bachelor's degree or higher as of 2019?

Q3 Answer

88% hold a high school diploma or equivalent and 31% hold a bachelor's degree

Percent of Racial and Ethnic Groups 25 Years and Older With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, SREB States



Source: SREB analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data.

Panel Discussion



How to make progress together – with policy and practice improvements for student success



SREB's Next Steps

1. Assist state leaders and policymakers in improving policy, based on research and data, to improve affordability, student success coaching and workforce preparation.
2. Embark on an initiative to provide technical assistance to colleges and universities with implementing, testing, adapting and scaling practice recommendations from this report.
3. Deepen services and partnerships with historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions in the region to better support their mission.

SREB

For more, go to [SREB.org/CollegeSuccess](https://www.sreb.org/CollegeSuccess)

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