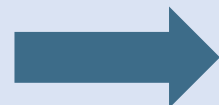# Assessing What's Changed: Results of a National Survey on College in High School Programs Post-COVID

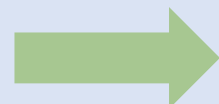## CHSA/NGA Cross-State Convening

June 28, 2021

www.CollegeinHighSchool.org

Agenda

➡️ *Introductions*

➡️ *The Survey*

➡️ *The Findings*

➡️ *Discussion*

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What Are Your Big Takeaways From COVID?

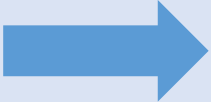→ **Introduce yourself – name, state, agency/system/institution**
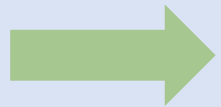
→ **What is one big takeaway you have about how college in high school programs have changed as a result of COVID-19, either for the better or worse?**

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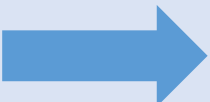
The Survey

Conducted in April, 2021 – The survey was conducted in April, 2021 as vaccination efforts across the United States were beginning to pick up speed.

300 Respondents – The survey received responses from 300 dual enrollment professionals (both secondary and postsecondary, about a 50/50 split)

38 States and DC – Responses were received from 38 states plus the District of Columbia.

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The Findings – Impact

Enrollment Challenges in Context– While enrollment in college in high school programs has been flagged by many as a concern, it appears to be smaller for many than wider postsecondary enrollment challenges.

Not Existential – Only 10 percent of respondents indicated that the pandemic had impacted the long-term sustainability of their college in high school programs.

State & Federal Support Was Limited – Most respondents indicated support from the state or federal government was limited, though guidance and better communication mechanisms with policymakers were valued significantly.

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On a scale of 1-5, where one is a small impact and 5 is a very big impact, what was the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic upon your college in high school program(s) in the following categories?
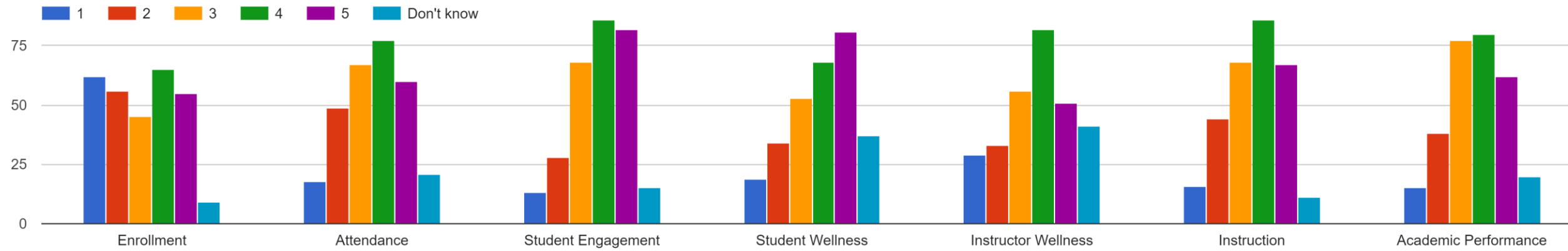
How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact enrollment in your program(s)?
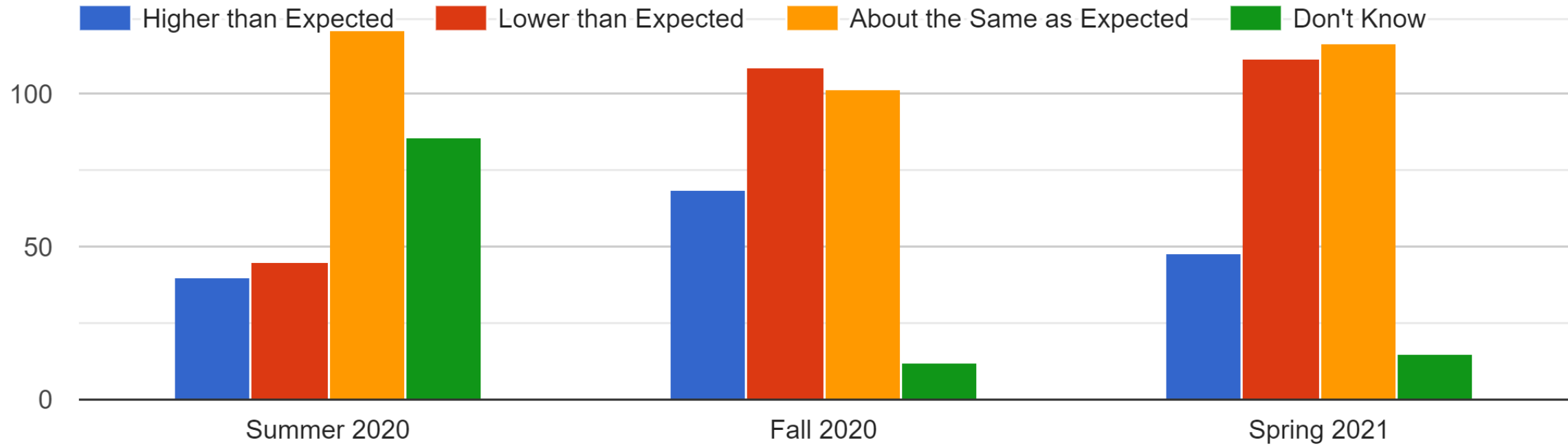
In general, how did enrollments in your college in high school program compare with the college partner's student enrollments as a whole?

292 responses
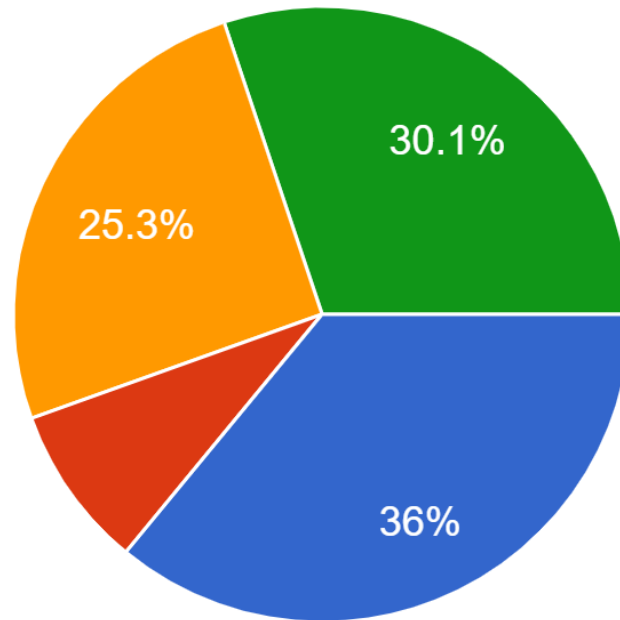
- 🔵 Enrollments in my college in high school program were better than the college's student enrollments as a whole
- 🔴 Enrollments in my college in high school program were worse than the college's student enrollments as a whole
- 🟠 Enrollment trends were similar between my college in high school program and the college's student enrollment as a…
- 🟢 Don't know

36%
30.1%
25.3%

The Findings - Challenges

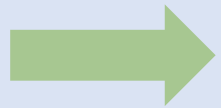**Enrollment** – Though not as big of an issue as higher ed generally, it is going to take a big extra push for many programs to return to pre-pandemic student recruitment. Need to reassert the value.

Student Preparedness - The field is concerned about student preparation for taking college in high school classes after the lost instructional time during the pandemic.

Eliminating Pandemic Flexibilities – A number of programs were afforded significant flexibilities during the pandemic, including around critical measures like eligibility criteria.

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Instructor Availability - The pandemic has exacerbated problems with recruiting and retaining instructors who are credentialed to teach dual enrollment courses.
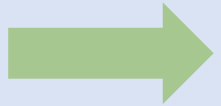
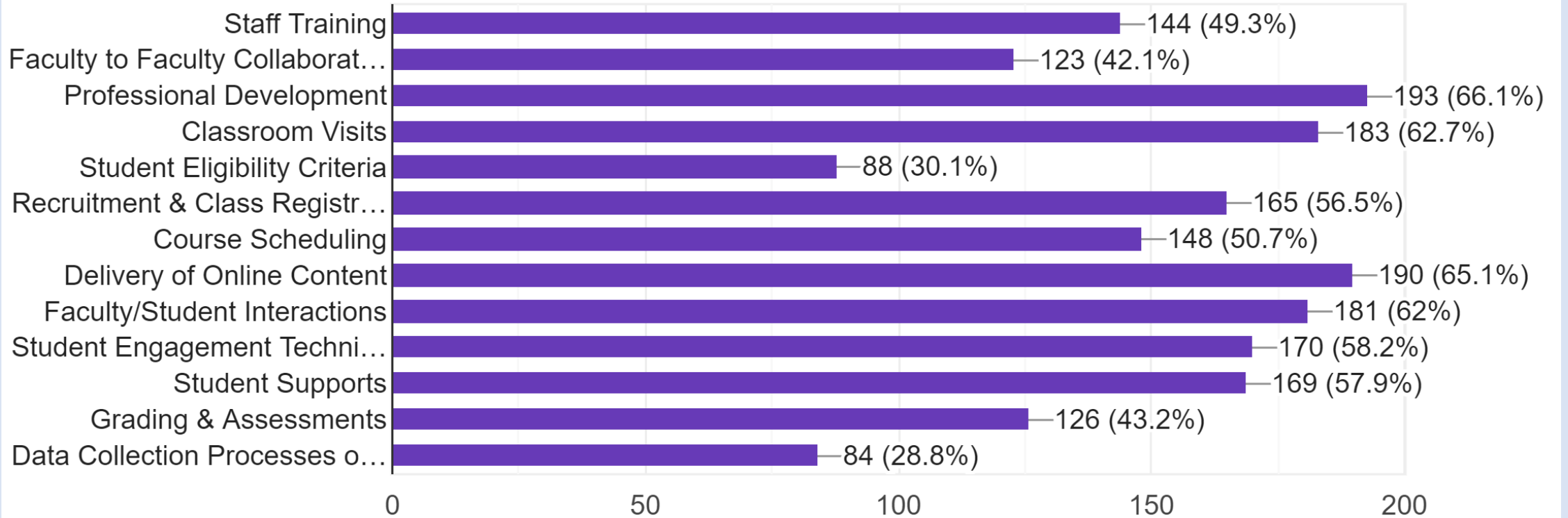**Getting CTE Programs Back** - A number of programs with hands on components (particularly in CTE) were suspended during the pandemic, and so getting those programs up and running will be challenging.

Rebuilding Program Culture & Relationships – Rebuilding the culture of college in high school programs will be a challenge; it was much harder to do virtually.

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As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, did your program make changes to any of the following? Check all that apply.

292 responses

Category	Responses
Staff Training	144 (49.3%)
Faculty to Faculty Collaborat…	123 (42.1%)
Professional Development	193 (66.1%)
Classroom Visits	183 (62.7%)
Student Eligibility Criteria	88 (30.1%)
Recruitment & Class Registr…	165 (56.5%)
Course Scheduling	148 (50.7%)
Delivery of Online Content	190 (65.1%)
Faculty/Student Interactions	181 (62%)
Student Engagement Techni…	170 (58.2%)
Student Supports	169 (57.9%)
Grading & Assessments	126 (43.2%)
Data Collection Processes o…	84 (28.8%)

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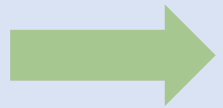
The Findings – Positive Changes

Changing Student Eligibility Criteria – Though one of the smallest categories of changes made, those programs that did change eligibility criteria believe it has been and will be very impactful.

Virtualized Processes – Many programs changed their administrative processes from paper to online, which was widely received positively, including for registrations, advising and professional development.

Improved Student Communication – Online engagement allowed for closer and more frequent communication with students, facilitating more effective advising.

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The Findings – Positive Changes

Distance Learning Improvements – Many programs that had some distance learning component reflected that they had improved considerably in the last year.
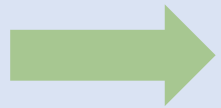
Instructor Tech Familiarity – Many instructors became more comfortable with the use of technology and familiar with its use, likely spurring more use of technology in the classroom moving forward.

Commitment to Shared Problem Solving – We've heard a lot of examples of programs where the two sectors did not align very well, but also real bright spot stories of systems or programs where K-12 and higher ed worked together more closely.

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Is your program considering or planning for a continuation of some remote instruction element to your program after the end of the pandemic?
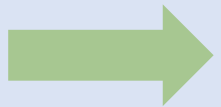
292 responses

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

49.3%
14.7%
36%

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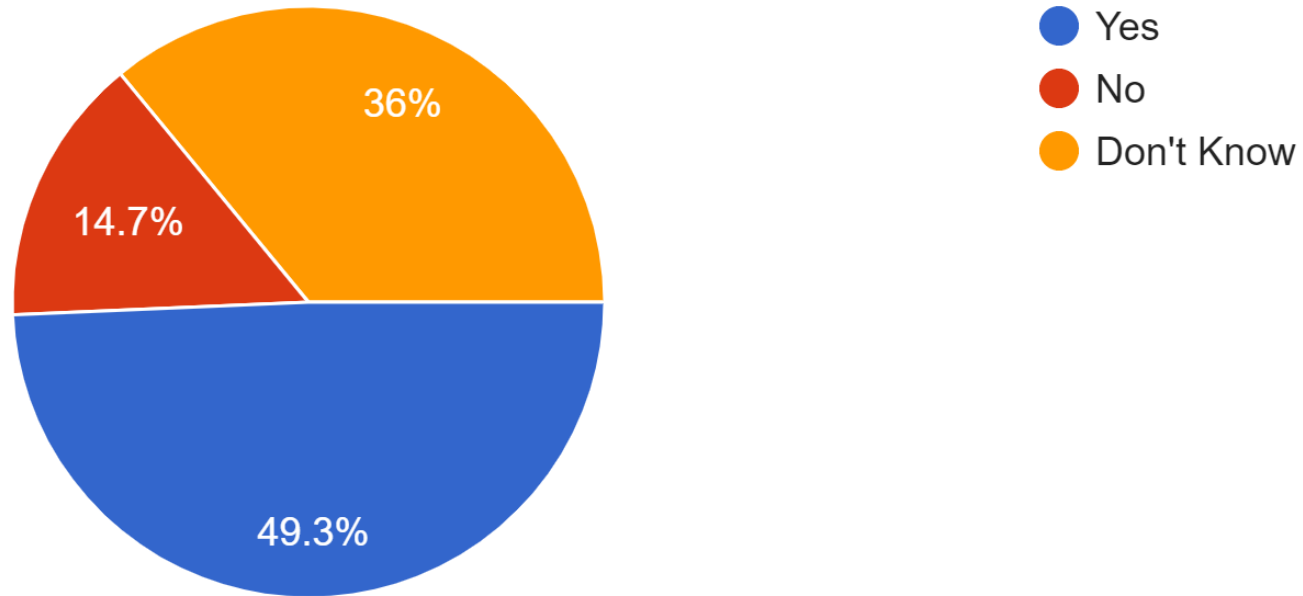
The Findings – Continued Online Instruction

➡️ **A Potential Equity Strategy** – Increased use of virtual instruction in dual enrollment allows programs to reach into schools who might otherwise be too small to sustain a program.
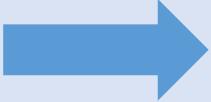
➡️ **A Potential Instructor Capacity Strategy** – Increased use of virtual instruction in dual enrollment allows for more involvement of postsecondary faculty on the main campus.

➡️ **But Questions Remain** – How will we ensure that students in online dual enrollment continue to have access to the highest quality and most meaningful experiences possible?

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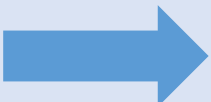ALLIANCE

Discussion Questions

➡️ **What trends in dual enrollment post-pandemic are positive and should we explore further to encourage replication?**

➡️ **What trends in dual enrollment post-pandemic are concerning and should we explore further to learn how to minimize or prevent?**

➡️ **Is continued virtual instruction for dual enrollment a positive equity strategy or an inferior experience for students? How do we ensure it is the former and not the latter?**

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Three Key Takeaways

➡️ Survey your own state's dual enrollment programs to understand specific concerns and issues impacting the programs where you live – a lot is contextual, and depends on existing state policy.

➡️ Work to understand what changes and flexibilities introduced as a result of the pandemic in your state are serving students well and leading to increased access and success, and work to sustain them.

➡️ Encourage school districts (and colleges, where available) to use COVID-19 relief funds to sustain and expand practices that improved student access and success during the pandemic.

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STAY IN TOUCH

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