



# COVID-19 FUNDING GUIDANCE

**College in high school programs like dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school can be effective tools in addressing the significant student challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.**

These evidence-based programs have demonstrated effectiveness at boosting college enrollment and completion rates, which have declined as a result of the pandemic, and are a potential tool to address student instructional loss. COVID-19 relief funds provide the opportunity to build more resilient postsecondary pathways that promote **postsecondary access, affordability, and success**, particularly for low income students, students of color, students with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups in higher education.

## Using COVID-19 Relief Funds to Support College in High School Programs

**Governors:** Governors may use any remaining funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) to support college in high school programs.

**State Education Agencies (SEAs):** SEAs may use state set-aside funding included in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) to support college in high school programs, including funds reserved to address learning loss.

**School Districts:** School districts may also use ESSER funding to support college in high school programs, including funds reserved by districts to address learning loss.

**Colleges and Universities:** Institutions of higher education (IHEs) may use institutional funding received through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to support student access to and success in college in high school programs. IHEs may also choose to provide emergency student financial aid to students participating in the IHE's college in high school program.

## Recommended Uses of Funding

States, school districts, and institutions of higher education should consider using relief funding to implement systems change that will more closely align K-12 and postsecondary education, including to:

- Understand existing equity gaps inhibiting access and success to college in high school programs, and develop targeted interventions to address identified gaps.
- Undertake statewide planning to establish greater connectivity between K-12 and higher education, including developing new policy frameworks and tools, or using existing ones, to scale college in high school programs.
- Develop best practices for online dual enrollment.
- Facilitate greater credit transfer among institutions and from dual enrollment programs.
- Eliminate costs for students participating in college in high school programs.
- Support student access to courses through targeted recruitment, promoting equity-minded eligibility criteria, and program expansion.
- Expand the pool of credentialed instructors to teach college courses in high school.
- Provide support services offered to students to ensure their success in college coursework in high school.

College in high school programs are effective strategies for policymakers looking to:

- **INCREASE COLLEGE ACCESS**
- **ENHANCE COLLEGE COMPLETION**
- **IMPROVE WORKFORCE READINESS**
- **REDUCE COLLEGE COSTS**