More than ever before, education is the foundation for a healthy, productive life, a strong democracy and an economically prosperous nation. But today we face crises across the education landscape: too many students fall through the cracks as they navigate our education system and are not prepared for the demands of college and the 21st-century workforce. If we are to increase the number of Americans who earn a college degree, especially students from groups historically underserved in higher education, then we must:

- Improve college preparation and access
- Ensure college affordability and financial aid system transparency
- Drive college admission and completion

Know the facts

A postsecondary degree is increasingly necessary for gaining employment. A college education will be required by 60% of all new jobs.

The U.S. ranks 12th in postsecondary degree attainment among developed countries of citizens ages 25- to 34-year-olds compared to fourth among citizens ages 55 to 64 years of age. Among 25- to 34-year-olds in the U.S., only 41.6% attain an associate degree or higher.

Disparities in educational attainment persist across demographic groups. Attainment rates are 19.2% for Hispanic students and 29.4% for African American students.
Support our efforts
The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center makes critical connections between policy, research and real-world practice to develop innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges in education today. The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center works to ensure that students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to succeed in college and beyond.

The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center releases several reports annually that address the major challenges facing the education landscape and to track progress towards increasing college access and success for students of all backgrounds. Key areas of focus include college preparation and access, college affordability and financial aid, and college admission and completion.

Engage in our initiatives
College Preparation & Access: All students deserve the highest-quality education and an opportunity to participate in academically challenging courses to prepare for success beyond high school. Initiatives include:
- The Educational Experience of Young Men of Color
- National Office for School Counselor Advocacy
- Teacher Advocacy

College Affordability & Financial Aid: All students should have access to an affordable college experience. Initiatives include:
- Trends in Higher Education Series
- Five Ways Ed Pays Parent and Student Awareness Campaign
- Early Information and Planning Project
- Federal and State Grant Simplification Agenda
- Pell Grant Sustainability

College Admission & Completion: All students should have the opportunity to benefit from higher education, which improves lives and strengthens our nation. Initiatives include:
- The College Completion Agenda
- Admissions in the 21st Century
- Community College Success Indicators

Act now
- Be a voice to help transform education for all students.
- Get Involved! Sign up and receive notifications and updates about the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center and pressing challenges confronting education in America.
- Let the Advocacy & Policy Center be your go-to organization for ideas, research, policies and strategies to improve college preparation, access and completion.

For more information on the College Board Advocacy & Policy Center visit:
advocacy.collegeboard.org