

## **GO TO HIGH SCHOOL, GO TO COLLEGE ACT OF 2017**

### *EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL IN AND GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE*

More than 300 early college high schools across the country have improved college readiness and college completion rates of low-income students who have traditionally been underrepresented in postsecondary education. These schools provide students the opportunity to simultaneously pursue a high school diploma while earning college credits up to an associate's degree, tuition-free. A 2013 American Institutes for Research evaluation of early college high schools found significant increases in college enrollment and completion among early college students. Specifically, the study found that 81 percent of early college students enrolled in college, compared with 72 percent of comparison students. During the evaluation period, 25 percent of early college students earned an associate's degree, as compared with only 5 percent of comparison students.

### *FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO EARN MEANINGFUL COLLEGE CREDIT DURING HIGH SCHOOL*

Expanding access to early college high schools will increase college completion rates and ultimately reduce the time and cost of earning a college degree. Growth of early colleges has been stifled by rising tuition costs that are unaffordable for students and too great to be assumed by sponsoring high school and college partners. The federal government should allow greater flexibility within the need-based Pell grant program to increase opportunities for students to earn college credits and degrees.

## **THE GO TO HIGH SCHOOL, GO TO COLLEGE ACT OF 2017**

The *Go to High School, Go to College Act* would allow Pell grant funding for eligible students to be used for transferable college credits that students complete in an early college program offered by an accredited Institution of Higher Education.

To ensure the cost effectiveness of this program, an Early College Federal Pell Grant that is received will be counted towards the maximum Pell award period determined by the Higher Education Act.

This updated proposal further defines early college high schools by requiring eligible institutions to demonstrate that they have a proven record of students successfully transferring earned credits to public institutions of higher education. This change will help ensure that students who participate in early college high school programs will be able to transfer credit upon completion.