

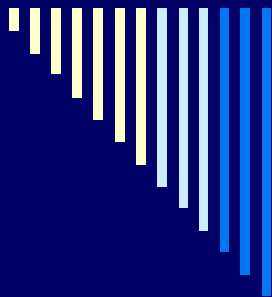
State Of the Union for K-16 Reform

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Context of K-16 Disjuncture

- Most ambitious generation ever – Over 80% want college degree
- Percent of Bachelor's degrees barely increases
- Media pays most attention to selective postsecondary, but problems in non-selective



Context of K-16 Disjuncture

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- ❑ 80% of students and 85% of institutions are open enrollment, or accept all qualified applicants
- ❑ About 60% in non-selective in remediation
- ❑ Completion rates over 80% in selective; but much lower in non-selective (60% dropouts for 2-year Bachelor's aspirants)
- ❑ Racial/ethnic minorities suffer the most



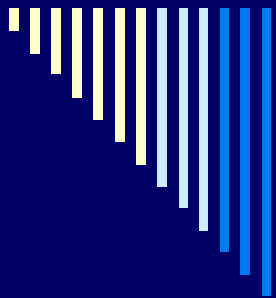
The Evolution of the Disjuncture between K-12 and Postsecondary Education

- Historic separation of policy and practice between higher education and K-12
 - Student standards established in separate orbits
 - K-16 faculty rarely work together
 - No institutionalized entity at the state or regional level to make policy or integrate K-16 practice
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The Evolution of the Disjuncture between K-12 and Postsecondary Education—cont'd

- ❑ No organized group lobbies for K-16 linkages
 - ❑ No data or accountability system regarding K-16 performance
 - ❑ Nobody loses a job for poor K-16 linkage or performance
 - ❑ Programmatic responses, such as Outreach programs, are too small, fragmented, and not systemic
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Findings

Current State Policies Perpetuate Disjuncture between K-12 and Postsecondary Education

- ❑ Multiple and confusing assessments
- ❑ Disconnected curricula
- ❑ Lack of connected, longitudinal data
- ❑ Inequitable college preparation



Findings

Student, Parent, and K-12 Educator Understandings about College Preparation

- ❑ Students' college knowledge is vague and varies by student group;
 - ❑ Teachers' college knowledge is incomplete, but they play a major role;
 - ❑ Secondary School resources and connections with colleges are inadequate.
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Awareness of Problem Increases Since 2003 Among Policy Elites: But Less For K-16 Teachers and Administrators

- K-16 solutions on the agenda in some states- graduation requirements, student aid, p-16 councils, standards discussions
 - But K-16 has not penetrated high school courses, and college placement-lacks depth and breadth
 - Media attention higher, Gates, Achieve, US Ed Dept.
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Four Policy Levers Needed Simultaneously

- Alignment has largest amount of Activity-Common Core Crucial
 - Finance Focuses On Student Aid, and Institutional Incentives for completion
 - Data for K-16 is weak except for few states
 - Accountability is Lacking-NCLB has no high school strategy
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Optimistic vs. Pessimistic View

- Positives: Momentum growing, Incremental progress, NCLB changes, New concepts for content articulation
- Negatives: public pressure lacking, historical roots, few incentives, no interest group coalition

Strategies lacking to reach Latinos in community colleges, or males [females are 59% of graduates]