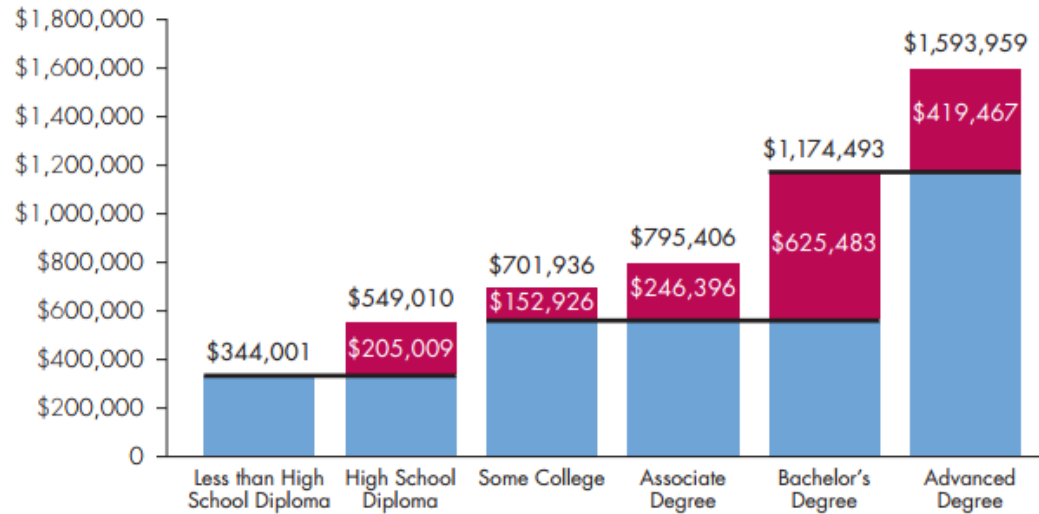


GEARing UP for ^{College} Success

Benefits of Higher Education

Impact on Lifetime Earnings

Figure 4
Percent Value of Lifetime Earnings
(At age 19 using a 3% discount rate)

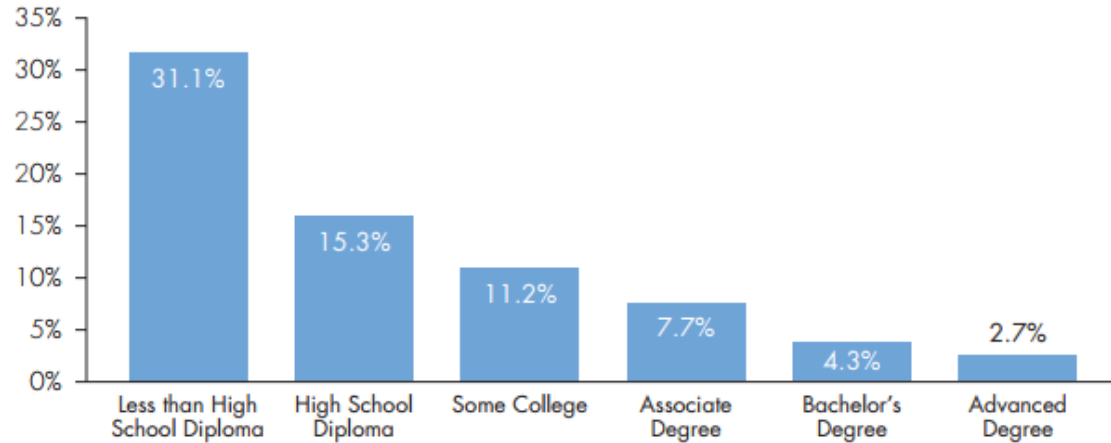


Source: Author's estimates using data from the 2012 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample.

Benefits of Higher Education

Impact on Poverty

Figure 5
Family Income Under the Poverty Line



Source: Author's calculations using the 2012 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, ages 27-66 and not enrolled in college, N = 1,511,493.

Benefits of Higher Education

- Better health
- More civically engaged
- Longer life
- Hold retirement plans
- More community engagement
- Home ownership
- Bank account holders
- Less criminal involvement (lower incarceration rates)
- Lower unemployment rates
- Intergenerational link to educational attainment

Education = Equalizer?

- Horace Mann (1848) succinctly states,
“Education, then, beyond all other divides of
human origin, is a **great equalizer of
conditions of men**—the balance wheel
of the social machinery.” Education and Social Inequity, n.d.

- Gerardo Gonzalez (2001) echoes the same

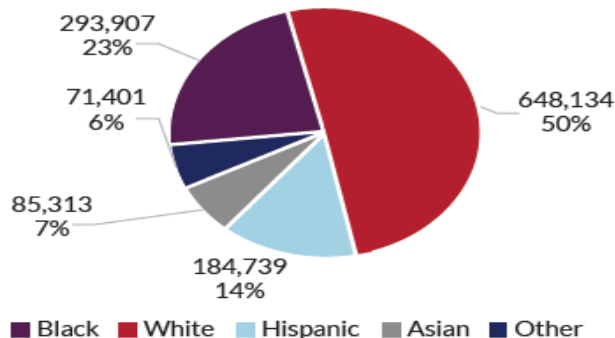
Education = Equalizer?

- **Gerardo Gonzalez (2001) “Education is the great equalizer in a democratic society, and if people are not given access to a quality education, then what we are doing is creating an underclass of people who will challenge our very way of life... the civil rights question of our nation today is that of access to a quality education.”**

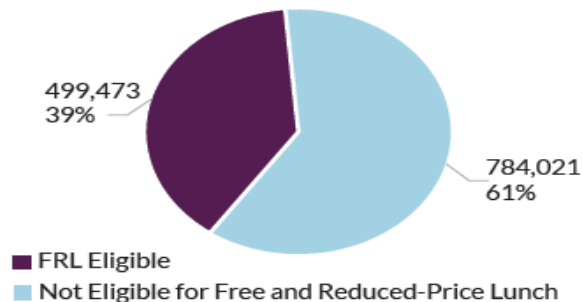
Gonzalez, 2001, p. 2

Who is in Virginia's education pipeline?

K-12 RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2015-16



K-12 LEVEL OF FAMILY INCOME, 2015-16



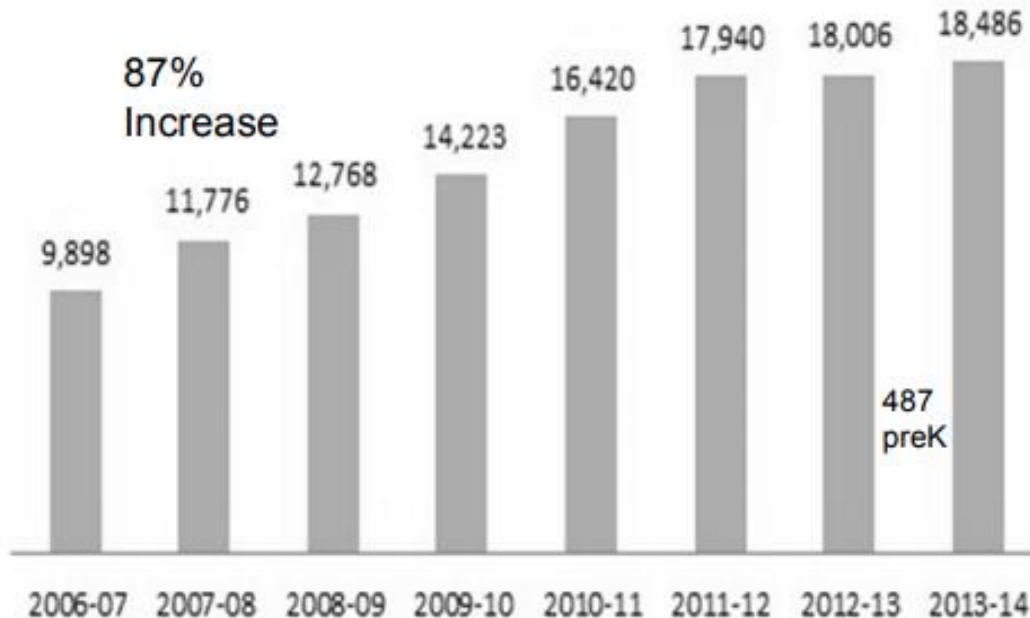
“Historically, college attendance (and associated benefits) has been least accessible to traditionally underrepresented populations, including persons from low-income families, first generation students, persons with limited English proficiency, and persons from a variety of racial and ethnic groups.”

Alleman, N. F., Stimpson, R. L., and Holly, L. N. (2009). *A statewide examination of college access services and resources in Virginia*. Richmond, VA: SCHEV.

2016 Virginia Education Summit Briefing
Joint Meeting of the House of Education and Senate Education and Health Committees

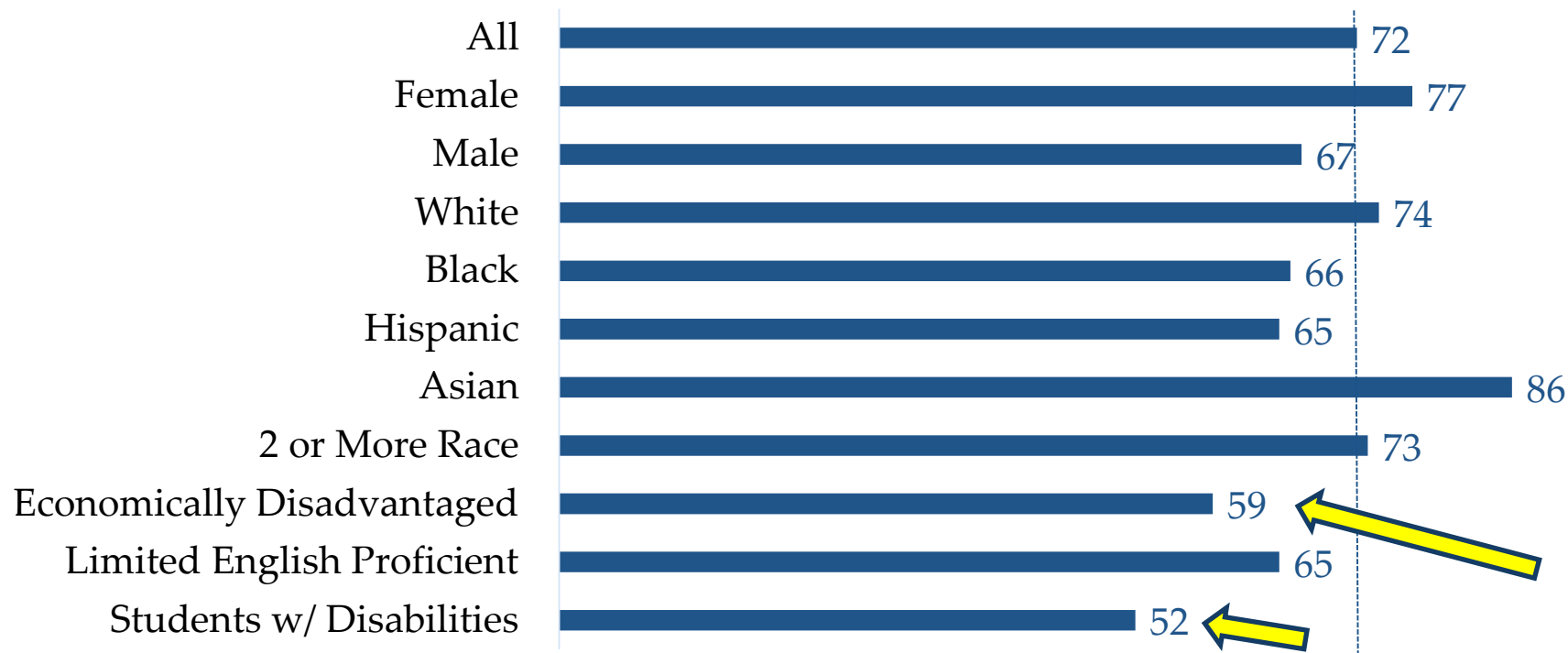
pK-12 Students Experiencing Homelessness

Total Enrolled in Virginia Schools



Who has been going to College in VA from high school?

Student demographics



What is GEAR UP?

**Gaining
Early
Awareness and
Readiness for
Undergraduate
Programs**

U.S. Department of Education federal grant program designed to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

☐ 7th Grade Cohort

- Serving 15 divisions, now in 25 high schools
 - Supporting @ 4200 students from 7th grade (2014-15 academic year) through their first year of college (2020-21)

☐ Priority Students

- Serving homeless students, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act
 - Supporting up to 50 homeless high school seniors, annually, as they prepare for life after high school and enter postsecondary education
 - Priority partner school districts include:
Lynchburg, Newport News, Petersburg, Roanoke

- ☐ Improve the academic performance and college preparation of students
- ☐ Increase the number of students in rigorous courses
- ☐ Increase knowledge of college and financial aid among students and their families
- ☐ Improve college readiness rates
- ☐ Increase college enrollment rates

GEAR UP Virginia Services

- ☐ Study skills development
- ☐ Summer academic academies
- ☐ College tours
- ☐ Academic course advising
- ☐ Career and academic planning
- ☐ Parent engagement
- ☐ Tutoring
- ☐ Mentoring
- ☐ Resource mapping
- ☐ First year of college support
- ☐ Personal assessments/inventories
- ☐ College application assistance
- ☐ FAFSA completion assistance
- ☐ Scholarship
- ☐ Technology assistance (PP only)



Lessons Learned

- ☐ Identify and talk with students about the program and benefits at the close of the junior year to help hurry onboarding and support in the fall
- ☐ New collaboration with VCCS' Great Expectations program to provide near peer mentors for students (Great Mentors) to work alongside MV Liaisons in the school and increase use of the iPad each student receives for communications, reminders, information sharing, promotion of tutor.com,
- ☐ Identify ways to solicit and share promising practices for supporting students statewide and nationally
- ☐ Conduct further research to gain a better understanding of the scale of the enrollment of students experiencing homelessness in VA colleges
- ☐ Establish a shared goal to track postsecondary credential attainment between K-12 and higher education
- ☐ Establish Single Points of Contact for students experiencing homelessness at each institution to help with the transition from K-12 to higher ed. and assess policy and campus "friendliness"

Thank you

Feel free to contact me with questions and/or thoughts.

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