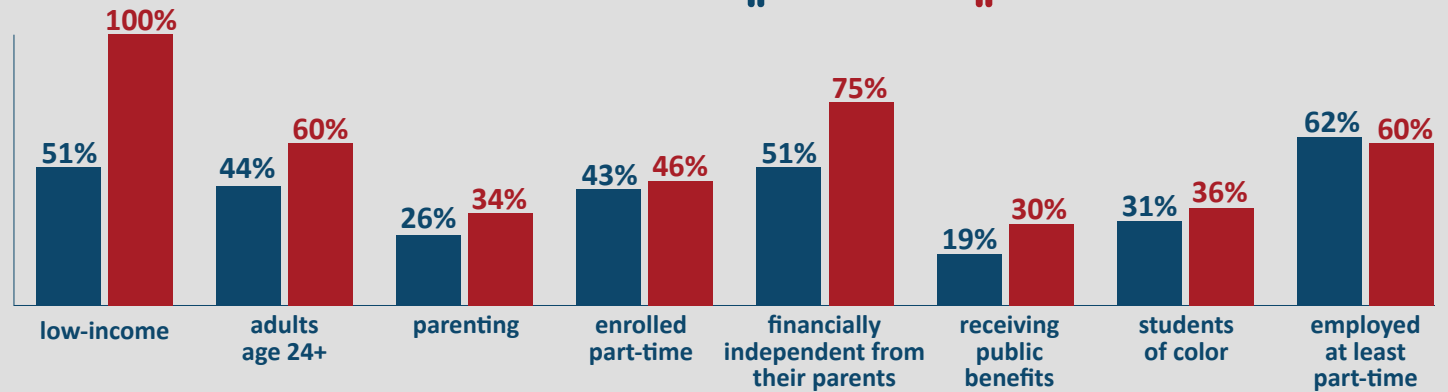


College Students Aren't Who You Think They Are

“College” connotes many different kinds of education & training that provide learning after high school. It includes workforce training, short-term certificates, apprenticeships, and Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree programs. Only **37%** of students have the “traditional” college experience of attending a four-year institution immediately after high school.

Characteristics of today’s students



Low-income students need access to college & credentials to prepare them for an environment where:



Employers set the bar and demand skilled employees

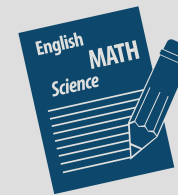
2/3 of U.S. workers have some education after high school.

99% of all jobs created since the Great Recession have been filled by individuals with more than a high school education.



States have recognized this need

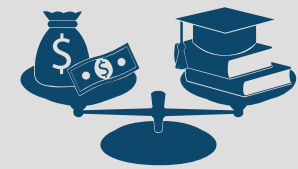
At least **25 states** have set a goal to have 55%+ of their adult population with a credential.



Many students need help to become college-ready

36 million adults have only basic vocabulary knowledge.

24 million working adults have low math/reading skills, and their low wages & skills limit their ability to advance educationally & professionally.



Postsecondary education is unaffordable

On average, community college students have unmet financial need of \$4,011. This need is greater still for Black and Latinx students.

The average cost of attending a public, 4-year college in-state is \$9,650, or **165%** of the maximum Pell Grant.

Low-income students are particularly at-risk of not attempting college, dropping out, and encountering barriers that prevent them from realizing their potential. Employer, state, and student needs won't be met without policies that support students' access to, and completion of, education and training. Find CLASP's solutions to these barriers at <http://bit.ly/CLASP-HEA>.