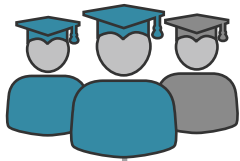


# Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Have Positive Early College Outcomes

State education staff in Indiana wanted to learn more about the relationship between financial aid and early college success. Using the Education and Workforce Development database from Indiana's Management Performance Hub, Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest examined the early college outcomes of Indiana students who received **Pell Grants** or **21st Century Scholarships**.



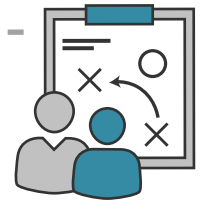
Approximately **two-thirds** of high school graduates nationwide enroll in some type of postsecondary training immediately after high school, but not all achieve success.<sup>1</sup>



One barrier to success, especially for students from low-income families, may be the **financial burden** associated with college tuition and fees.

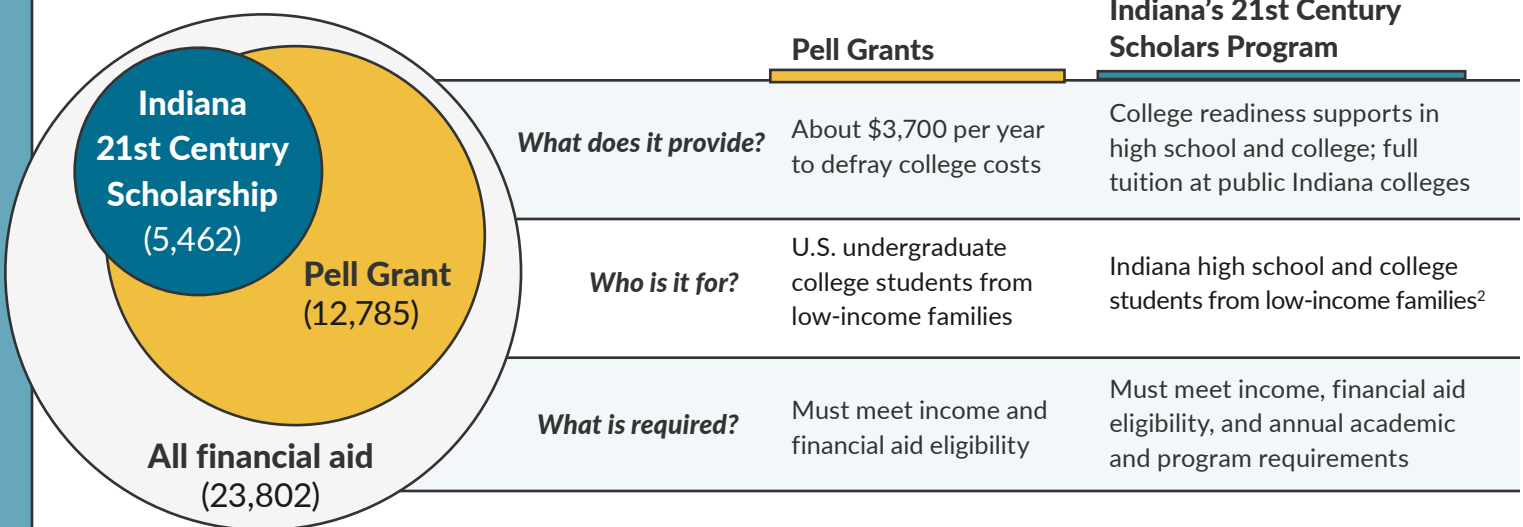


Financial aid, such as **Pell Grants**, can help alleviate this burden.



In addition to financial aid, Indiana's **21st Century Scholars** program also offers and promotes academic and college readiness supports, such as graduation planning, to help prepare students for college success.

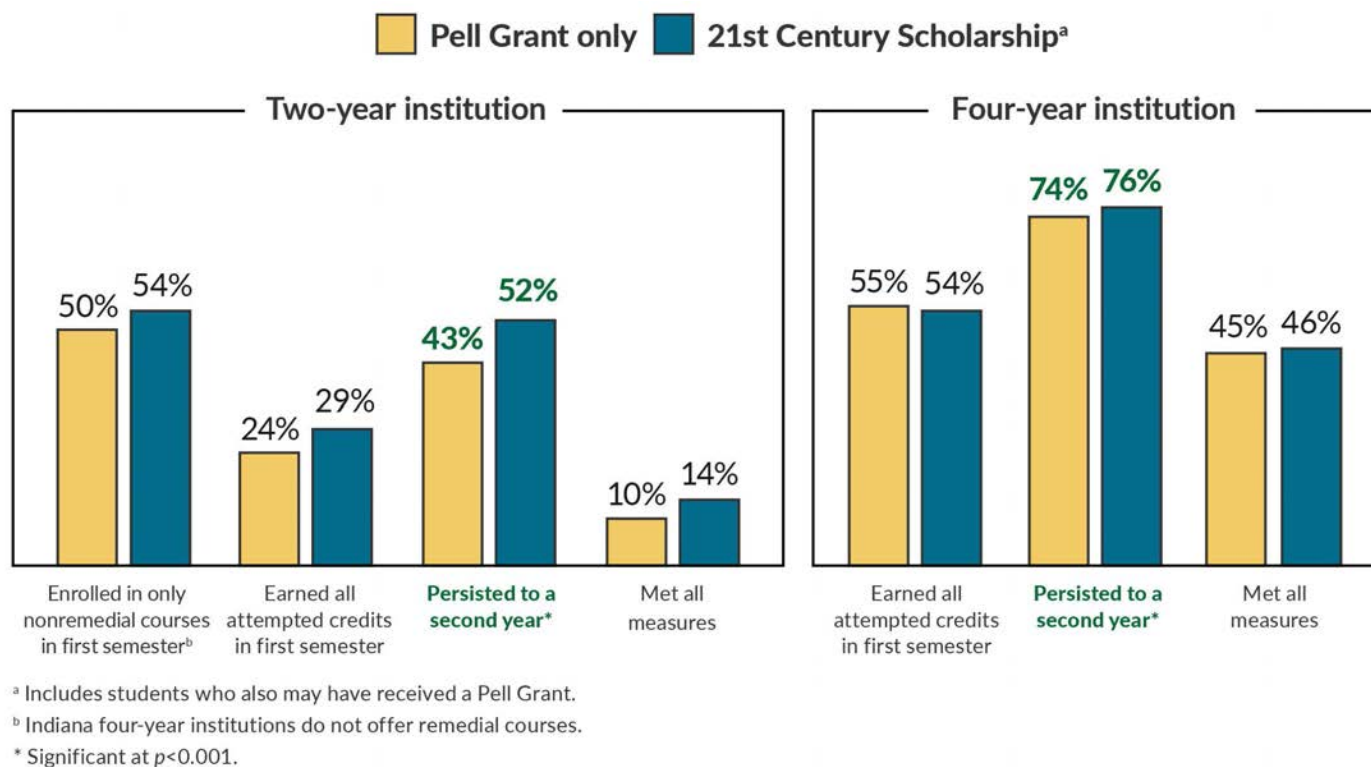
**This study examined early college success for a sample of 28,525 Indiana high school students who graduated in 2014 and entered an in-state public college that fall. The majority of these students received financial aid.**



<sup>1</sup> National Center for Education Statistics (2018). *The Condition of Education, 2018* (NCES No. 2018-144). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2018144>

<sup>2</sup> Students may enroll in the program as early as grade 7 but must enroll by the end of grade 8 to participate.

Indiana 21st Century Scholarship recipients were more likely than students receiving only Pell Grants to achieve early college success and **significantly more likely** to persist to a second year of college.



## Helping more Indiana students achieve early college success



**Indiana middle and high schools may want to encourage participation in the 21st Century Scholars program.** The study found a positive relationship between receiving a 21st Century Scholarship and early college success.



**Public colleges may want to strengthen supports for Pell Grant recipients, particularly at two-year colleges.** Steps institutions can take include promoting a college culture of inclusion, providing targeted and mandatory student advising, and addressing barriers for at-risk students.



**High schools, public colleges, and state agencies may want to target gaps in early college success among disadvantaged students.** The study also found that Black students, students eligible for the federal school lunch program, and students who do not participate in high school Advanced Placement or dual-credit courses are more likely to struggle early in college.

Read the full report: <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED580821>

**Source:** Davis, E., Guarino, N., & Lindsay, J. (2018). *Predicting early college success for Indiana's high school class of 2014*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED580821>

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