

MAKING THE CONNECTION

TAKE ACTION

State Government

To achieve alignment at scale, there's an opportunity for states to lead in creating a cross-sector strategy around advising.

- Almost every state in the nation has set an ambitious postsecondary attainment goal, recognizing the value of a postsecondary education to succeeding in today's workforce.
- They've led collaborative efforts across K-12 and higher education on standards and assessments, pathways, and credentials.
- And they've enacted innovative efforts to address postsecondary access and success, including promise scholarships and FAFSA completion campaigns.
- Having a system of high-quality advising undergirds the success of each of these initiatives, yet few states have made advising a priority.

Achieving alignment in advising practices at scale will take coordination among multiple players dedicated to student success. Those in closest proximity to students can emphasize and enact relational advising, while those who are further can simplify and codify procedural advising.

Too few communities are currently prioritizing aligned advising. There's a role for each player.

Here's where to start at the state government level:

GET STARTED

- Create a coherent, equity-driven plan across K-12 and higher education for aligned advising.
- Define a set of key milestones that all students should complete in preparing for the transition to postsecondary education and training, and delineate the roles and responsibilities among staff for supporting students in meeting them.
- Track Momentum Metrics data, and make it available to high school counselors, principals, and others providing direct student support.
- Establish MOUs and articulation agreements among K-12 districts, two-year institutions, and four-year institutions.
- Invest in ongoing training and certification for high school counselors around college and career readiness.
- Leverage GEAR UP and other state and federal programs to target advising support to students of color, low-income students, and first-generation students.
- Invest in statewide FAFSA and summer melt campaigns.

GO BOLD

- Establish a financial bonus for districts and higher education institutions for students successfully transitioning to postsecondary education and training, specifically those that close equity gaps for students of color, low-income students, and first-generation students.
- Build and operationalize a longitudinal data system that allows for proactive advising in real-time and prevents duplicate data collection.
- Create a statewide postsecondary advising corps to build capacity in communities that predominantly serve students of color, low-income students, and first-generation students.

