

How can we invest forward?

As districts and states work to **invest forward** with their American Rescue Plan resources, we urge a deliberate focus on putting students on a path to economic mobility in high school. We recommend every community designate a sufficient amount of stimulus resources to shore up support for students in grades 9–12, accelerate postsecondary and career preparation, and ensure more equitable postsecondary access.

Every community should invest in student support in the following four priorities:



Build college and career momentum early in high school.

- Support on-track credit attainment in 9th grade
- Embed college and career advising in the school day



Acquire knowledge, experiences, and relationships necessary for career success.

- Expand participation in high-quality career pathway programs aligned with in-demand labor market opportunities that pay a family-sustaining wage
- Scale pathway-aligned work-based learning opportunities
- Invest in near peer advising supports to expand students' social capital



Earn college credit and/or stackable credentials before graduation.

- Expand equitable access to and success in advanced courses
- Increase high-quality industry-recognized credential attainment



Directly enroll in postsecondary education or training programs that lead to credentials with labor market value.

- Increase FAFSA completion and college applications
- Build bridges through the summer to postsecondary education and training
- Track and analyze postsecondary outcomes data to target student support