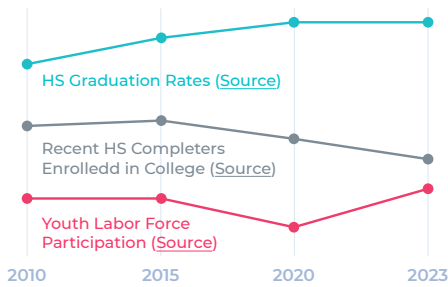
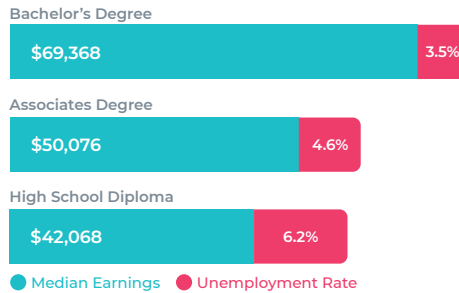


By 2031, 72 percent of jobs will require education or training beyond high school; yet since the onset of the pandemic, college enrollment has plummeted and many are questioning the value of higher education. At the same time, longstanding inequities in higher education access and attainment have worsened. The unprecedented ESSER funding provided a unique opportunity for states and districts to establish and scale the postsecondary pathways that will help students thrive in their adult life.



College Enrollment Is Declining

Fewer students are pursuing the postsecondary credentials necessary to access high-wage, in-demand jobs.



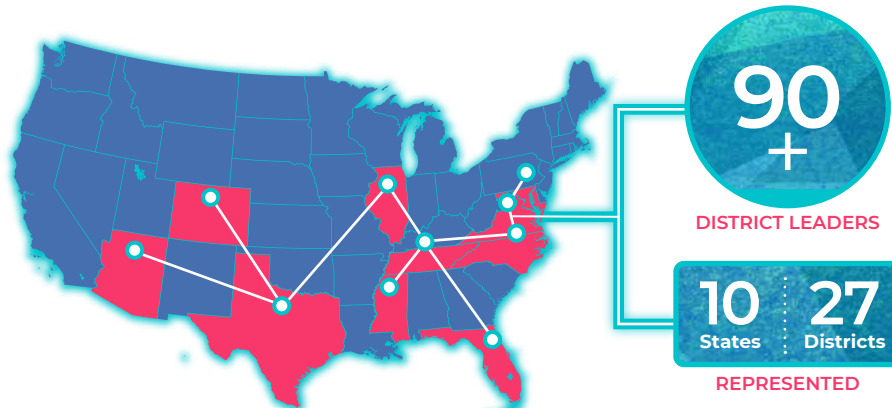
Credentials Matter

Credentials with labor market value not only leads to higher wages, but greater stability. (Source)

The Invest Forward Initiative was created to encourage states and districts to put postsecondary access and success at the heart of their recovery strategies.

Connecting Leaders and Educators in the Work

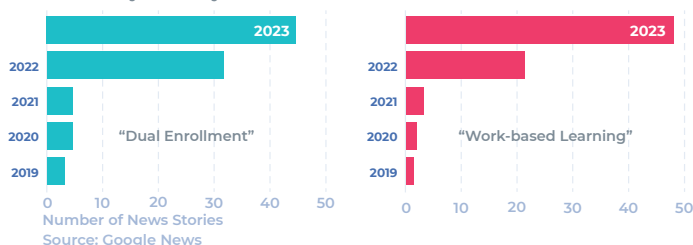
Because of the deadline on stimulus spending, implementation of these programs was particularly challenging; as such, much of the work was connecting innovative leaders to one another to share experience and expertise across districts and states. In June 2022, Invest Forward hosted a convening to bring together leaders from across the country to share strategies, common challenges, and innovative ideas.



Influencing Conversations about Pathways

Invest Forward hoped to spark greater conversation in the national discourse about the value and urgent need to create better postsecondary pathways as a means of post-pandemic recovery AND as a long-term investment in student opportunity.

Postsecondary Pathways in the News



#InvestForward Social Media Engagement



Organizing a Collaborative Coalition

The Invest Forward Coalition is comprised of organizations dedicated to creating and supporting stronger postsecondary pathways for students. This common vision allows the coalition to easily share and amplify resources to a much larger audience.

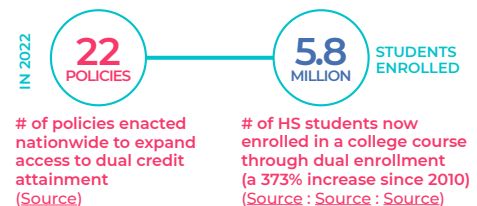


32 Partner Organizations



The movement to build stronger postsecondary pathways is gaining momentum at the state house.

While the direct work of the Invest Forward initiative was not to influence lawmakers, by increasing awareness and amplifying discourse around the value of postsecondary pathways, there was greater legislative interest in creating more pathways-friendly policies.



64% of parents say schools should do more to ensure college-bound students and students who choose a different pathway have equally good opportunities to prepare for their future while in high school

