

The Problem

Only ten percent of students from low-income families attain a bachelor's degree by age 25.

Just 11 percent of low-income students who are the first in their family to attend college will have a college degree within six years of enrolling in school.

Issues:

First Generation College Goers Unprepared and Behind

Students are behind academically due to inadequate preparation in high school.

Students in schools with fewer resources have poor access to good information on higher education. They do not know to ask about on campus resources or graduation rates when researching college choices.

Colleges lack resources earmarked for these students to succeed.

Many schools enroll these students but few are equipped to actually graduate them.

"Many students underestimate themselves when selecting a university.....The reality of it is that a lot of low-income kids could be going to elite universities on a full ride and don't even realize it."

Stigma - It is considerable. Colleges need to understand that students may not come forward easily to ask for help.

Up to 40 % of low income students having been accepted to college never show up to college in the fall. Why?

"They are stymied by sticker shock, Kafkaesque paperwork requirements and a quiet, corrosive feeling that they don't belong." Hechinger Report