

*Pathways to Opportunity:  
The Virginia Plan  
for Higher Education*

**PPE Summit  
April 27, 2021**



**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**

# Why The Plan Matters

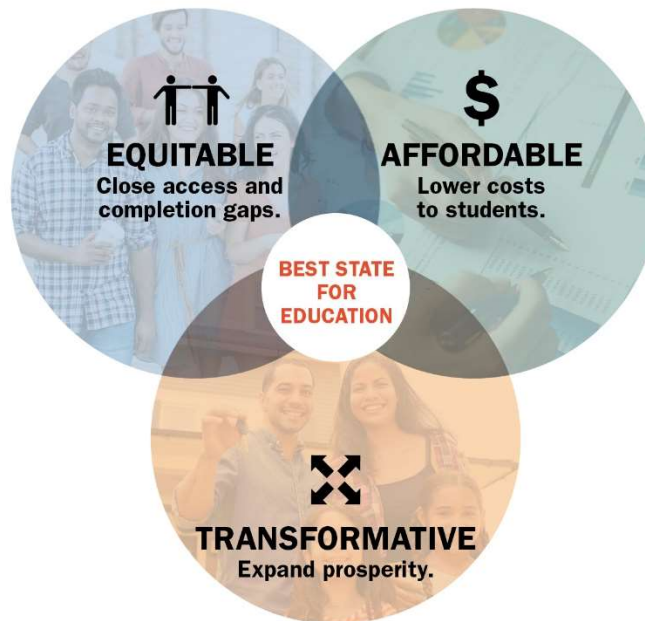
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- 1. Code requirement for SCHEV:**
  - To develop the statewide strategic plan for higher education.
  - To review The Plan every six years to ensure relevance.
- 2. PPE institutions play an important role in Virginia's higher education ecosystem.**
  - Offer diverse postsecondary pathways.
  - Some institutions have a large online learning component.
  - Support student experiences that improve employment outcomes.

# Pathways to Opportunity - Goals

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Remove barriers to access and attainment, especially for Black, Hispanic, Native American and rural students; students learning English as a second language; students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and students with disabilities.



Invest in and support the development of initiatives that provide cost savings to students while maintaining the effectiveness of instruction.

Increase the social, cultural and economic well-being of individuals and communities within the Commonwealth and its regions.

# Goal 1: Equitable – Close Gaps



## Approved Supporting Strategies

**Expand** postsecondary opportunities and awareness to Virginians who may not view higher education as an option.

**Advance** digital access, adoption and literacy as well as high-quality, effective remote-learning programs.

**Strengthen** student support services for persistence and completion: mental health, mentoring, career services, social, student basic needs, information technology, disability support and other services.

# Goal 2: Affordable – Lower Costs



## Approved Supporting Strategies

**Align** tuition and fees, financial aid and state appropriations such that students have broader access to postsecondary education opportunities regardless of their ability to pay.

**Cultivate** affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non-traditional and returning students.

**Update and reform** funding models and policies to improve equity, affirm return on investment and encourage increased and consistent levels of state funding.

**Foster** program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.

# Goal 3: Transformative – Expand Prosperity



## Approved Supporting Strategies

**Support** experiences that improve students' employment outcomes, income and community engagement.

**Improve** the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

**Cultivate** a climate of inclusion and innovation through scholarship, research, a diverse faculty and other programming.

# Measures – What and How

Proposed Measures to Assess Goal Fulfillment			
Goals	Measure	Definition	Target
Goal 1 - Equitable: Close access and completion gaps.	Attainment	Percent of 25- to 64-year-olds with a postsecondary degree or credential	Close gaps in attainment of selected groups
	Enrollment	Fall headcount of public and private undergraduates	Enrollment reflects Virginia's population
Goal 2 - Affordable: Lower costs to students.	Awards	Undergraduate degrees and credentials produced each year	Undergraduate degrees and credentials awarded each year reflect enrollment
	Borrowing	Average debt of graduates	Close gaps in borrowing by selected groups
Goal 3 - Transformative: Expand prosperity.	Wages	Graduates' wages 10 years after graduation	Close gaps in median earnings of selected groups

Source: SCHEV and ACS data.

# How Can You Engage With The Plan?

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**What activities does your institution engage in that support The Plan's goals and strategies?**