



College Completion Fund Act

“We’ve focused for so long on how we can get students into college, but we need to focus just as much on how to help students get through college. Completion is the key to unlocking the long-term career success that is the promise of higher education. The College Completion Fund Act would establish a first-of-its-kind federal fund to invest in evidence-based student support services that have proven to help students from diverse backgrounds complete their degrees.” – U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich

U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich introduced the College Completion Fund Act to invest in evidence-based strategies to help college students stay engaged in their education and complete their degrees. The bill would authorize \$62 billion to be distributed by the U.S. Department of Education over the next 10 years. Funds will be allocated to states based on a formula using Census tract poverty data to ensure the funding reaches the under-resourced schools with students in the most need of support.

In order to receive these funds, states will need to develop strategic plans to increase graduation and completion rates for all students enrolled in their public colleges and universities. These plans will need to particularly focus on strategies to support students from low-income backgrounds and historically underrepresented communities, first-generation college enrollees, parenting students, students with disabilities, and student veterans.

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- Comprehensive academic support services such as faculty, career coaching, and peer counseling
- Collection of real-time data on student progress
- Incentives to keep students on track in their education
- Direct student support such as mental health services, child care, transportation, emergency financial assistance, food and housing assistance, career coaching, and work-based learning opportunities

- Reforms to developmental education, including utilizing career pathways and improving transfer student success

A broad coalition of educators and community advocates is calling on leaders in the House and Senate to make sure that the final version of the Build Back Better Plan that Congress passes later this year includes Senator Heinrich's College Completion Fund Act.

- America Forward
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
- New America Higher Education Program
- Results for America
- The Education Trust
- The Institute of Higher Education Policy
- Third Way