

Fostering Futures: How to Make Postsecondary Education Affordable for California's Foster Youth

LOGISTICS

- This webinar is being **recorded** and will be posted at **www.jbay.org**.
- All attendees are **muted**.
- Please use **“Q&A”** to submit questions, which can be submitted at any time. Questions submitted through chat will not be answered.

Presenters



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- 12 years on Sacramento City Council
- Longtime champion for foster youth, parolees, incarcerated women and transition age youth
- Co-author with Senator Mike McGuire of SB 307





Foster Care, Post-Secondary Education and Financial Aid in California

Who are we?

- The Urban Institute is a nonprofit research organization that provides data and evidence to help advance upward mobility and equity.
- The research presented today is a part of a body of research on Education and Training Vouchers conducted by Urban Institute researchers: Devlin Hanson, Laura Packard Tucker, and Michael Pergamit.
- The research presented today does not represent the position of the Urban Institute, and we as researchers do not take a position on legislation.

Young people with foster care history want to attend college, but the high cost is a barrier.

- The vast majority of young people with foster care history **want to attend and graduate from college**, but most do not (Courtney, Terao, and Bost 2004; McMillen et al. 2003; Unrau, Font, and Rawls 2012).
- When they do attend, students with foster care history are **more likely to drop out and less likely to graduate** compared to their peers (Day et al. 2011; Okpych et al. 2020; Hanson et al. 2022).
- Among those who either never enrolled or dropped out, about one third reported facing a barrier to going back to school, with **needing to work** and **not being able to afford college** being some of the most common barriers (Courtney 2018).

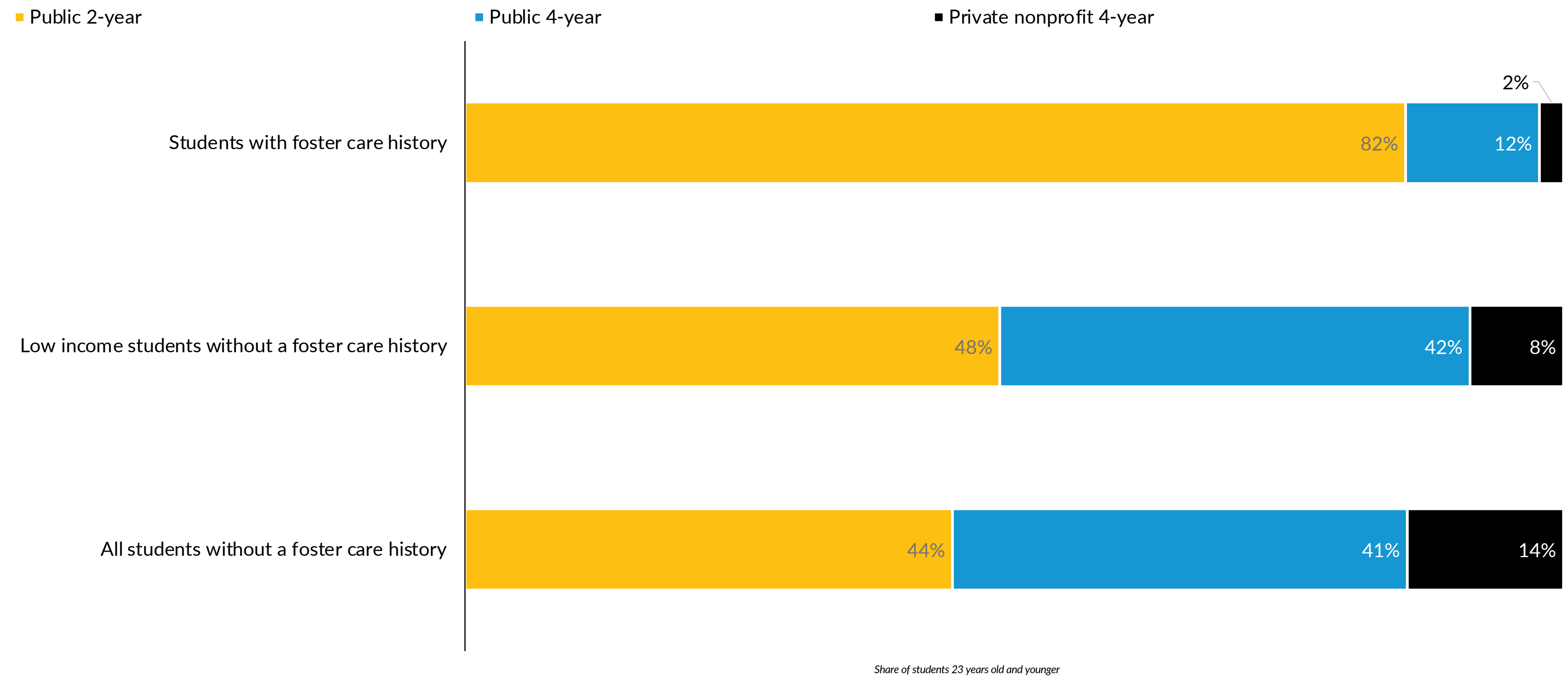
For young people with foster care history, working can conflict with postsecondary participation and persistence.

- Although many students work while enrolled in college, the rates are much **higher** for students with foster care experience (Cooper, Mery, and Rassen 2008; US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), 2020).
- **Working too much**—especially working full-time—can be difficult to juggle with a school schedule.
 - There is evidence of a **direct relationship between number of hours worked and the likelihood of dropping out** of school for students with foster care experience (Okpych 2012).

What does college attendance and unmet financial need look like for students with foster care history in California?

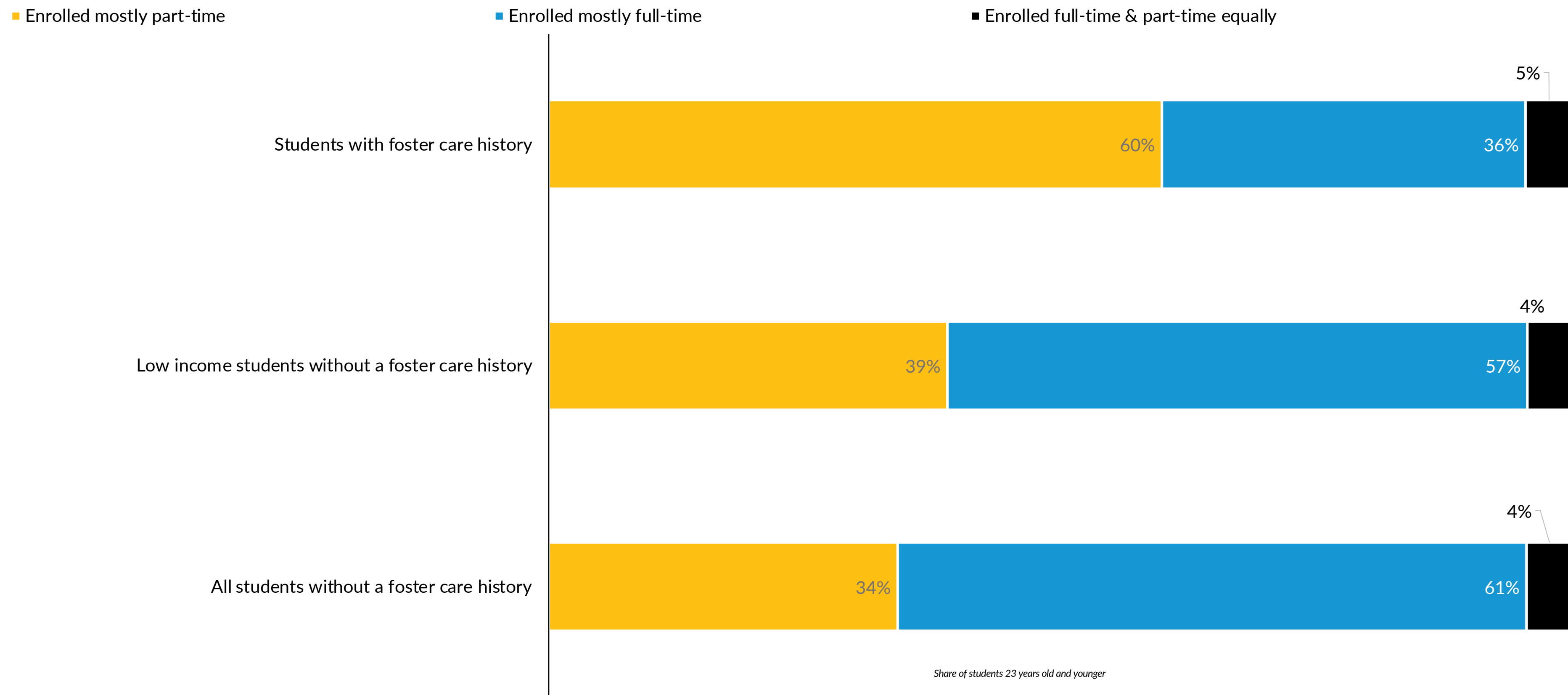
In California, students with foster care history are most likely to attend **two-year, public schools**.

Share of undergraduate students 23 and younger



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study-Administrative Collection: 2018, Undergraduates (NPSAS-AC).

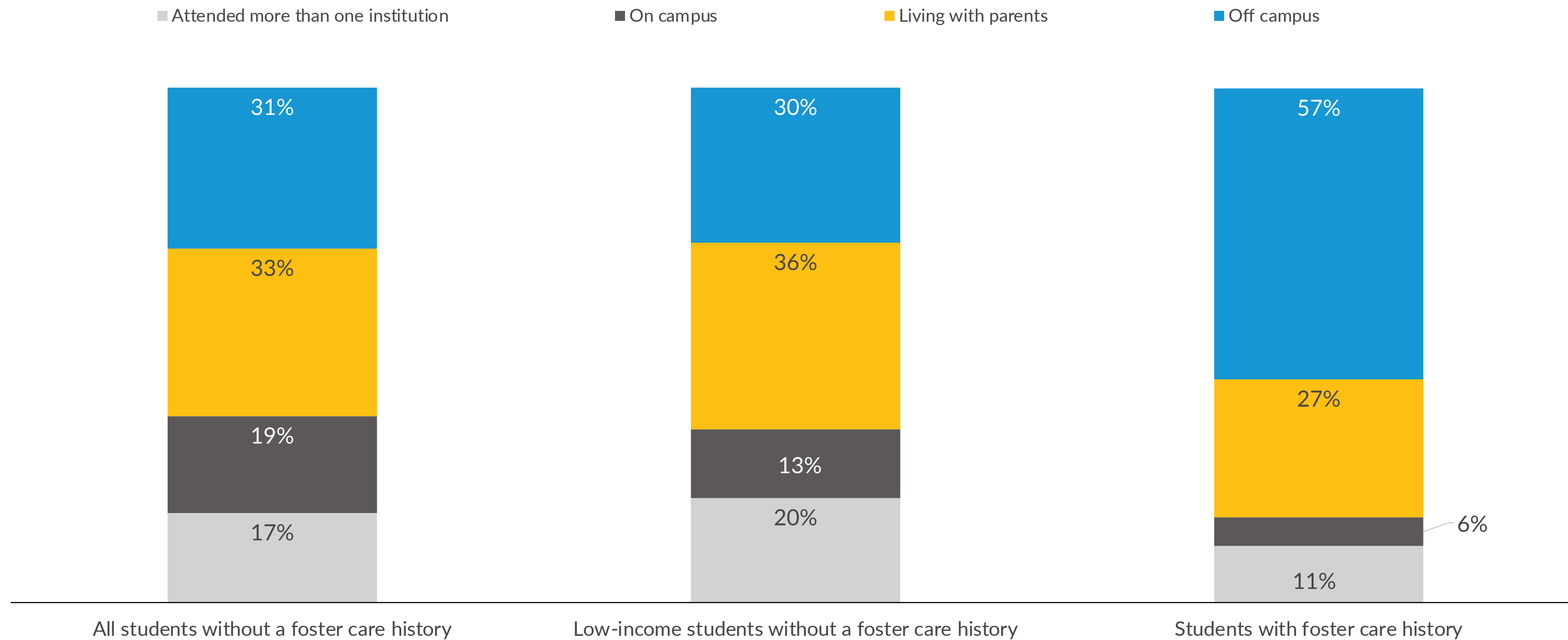
In California, students with foster care history are more likely to attend school part-time.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study-Administrative Collection: 2018, Undergraduates (NPSAS-AC).

In California, students with foster care history are more likely to **live off campus**.

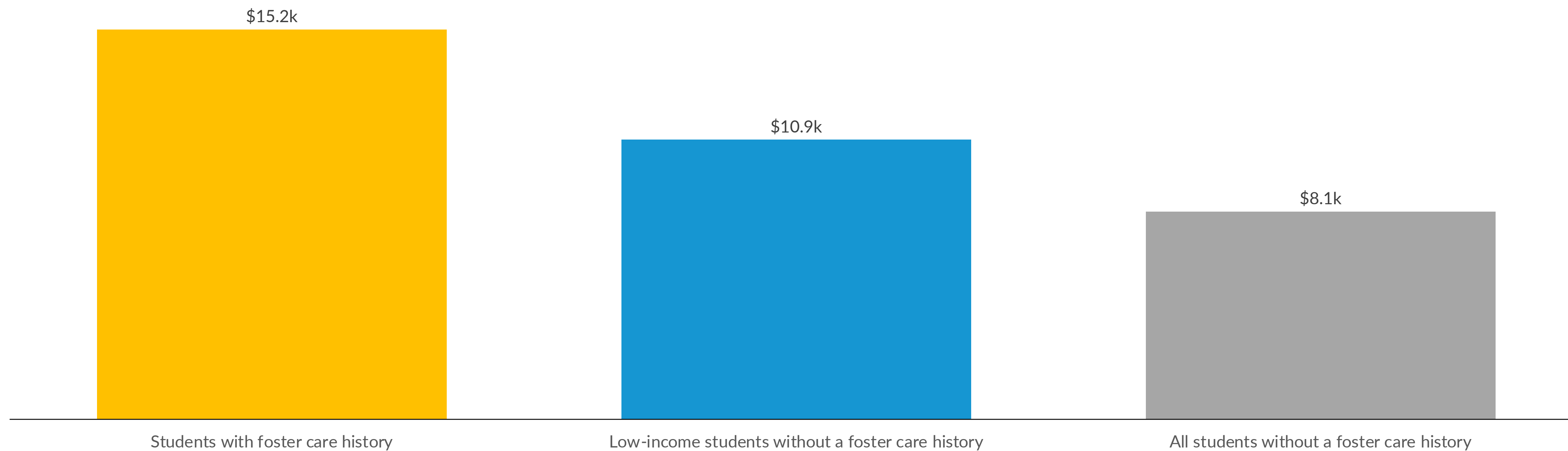
Share of undergraduate students 23 and younger



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study-Administrative Collection: 2018, Undergraduates (NPSAS-AC).

Students with foster care history have **higher net price** compared with all students or low-income students without foster care history.

Median net price after grants and EFC for full-time undergraduate students in California



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study-Administrative Collection: 2018, Undergraduates (NPSAS-AC).

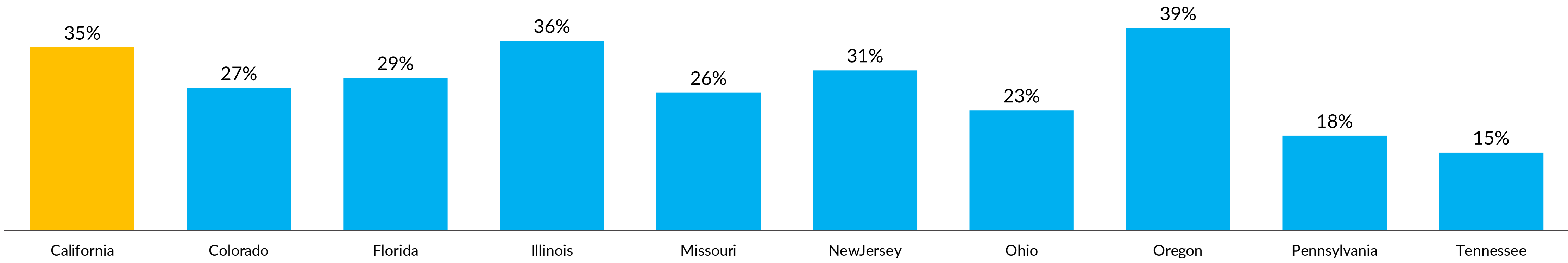
A Study of Ten States ETV use and student outcomes

Study

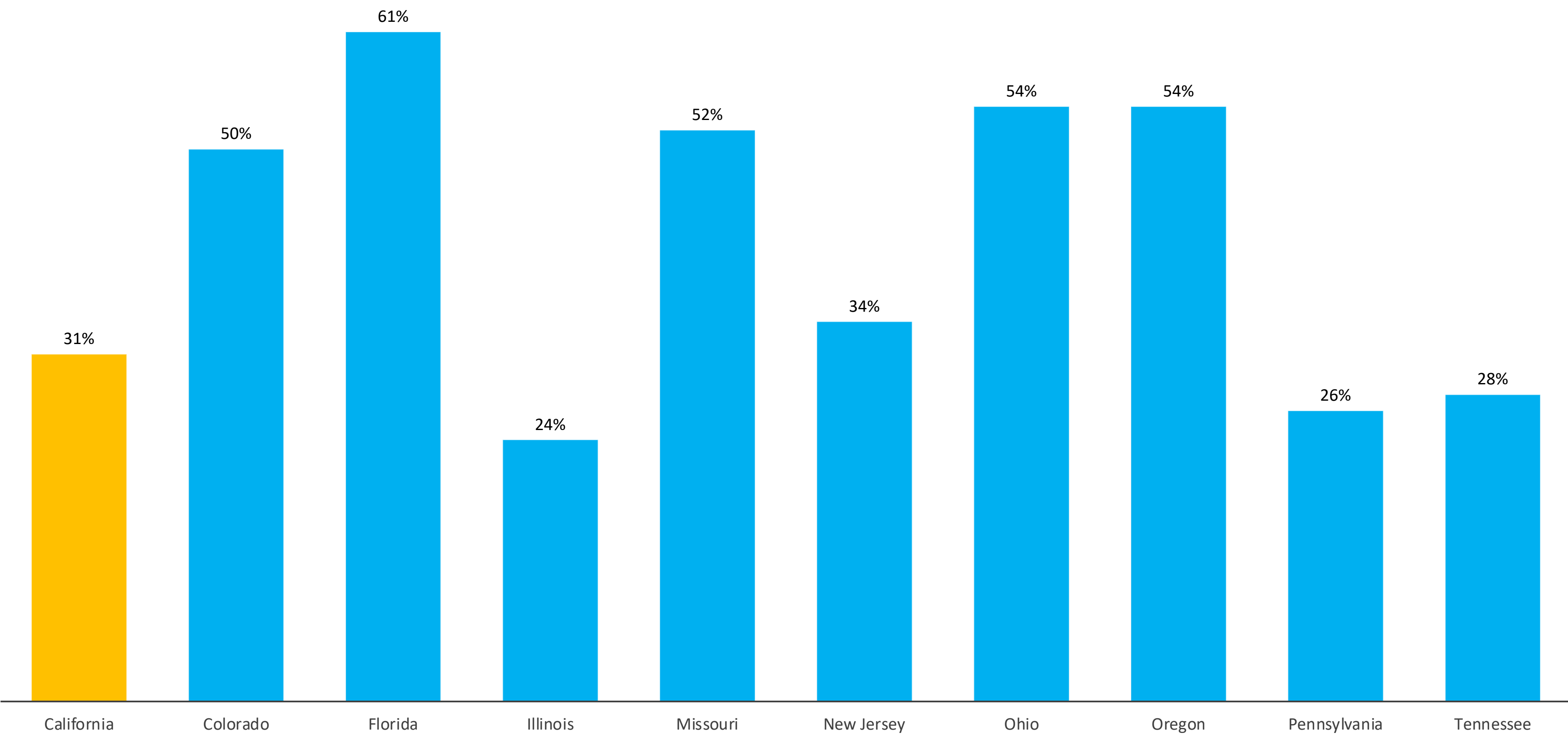
- Study of ETV in 10 states: **California**, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Tennessee
- All youth in foster care at age 16 or older from 2005 to 2017
- ETV use from ETV administrators
- College enrollment and graduation data from the National Student Clearinghouse
- Data predate recent changes in ETV program with the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018

ETV Take-Up

All states have low rates of college enrollment by age 21



Probability of enrolling with an ETV among young people enrolled in college varies widely by state



ETV usage and amount

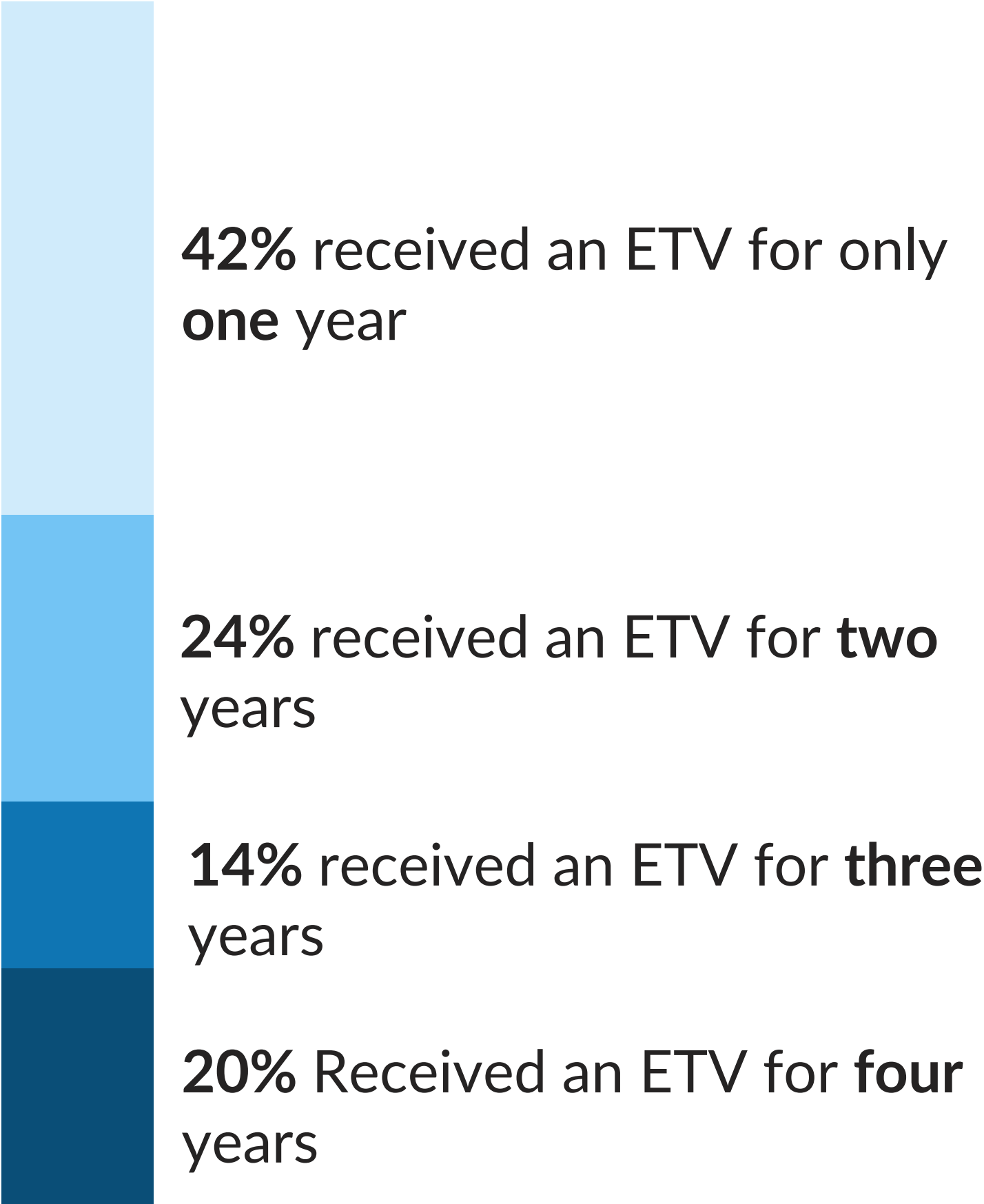
\$4,750

Average amount awarded per student per year in CA

\$3,512

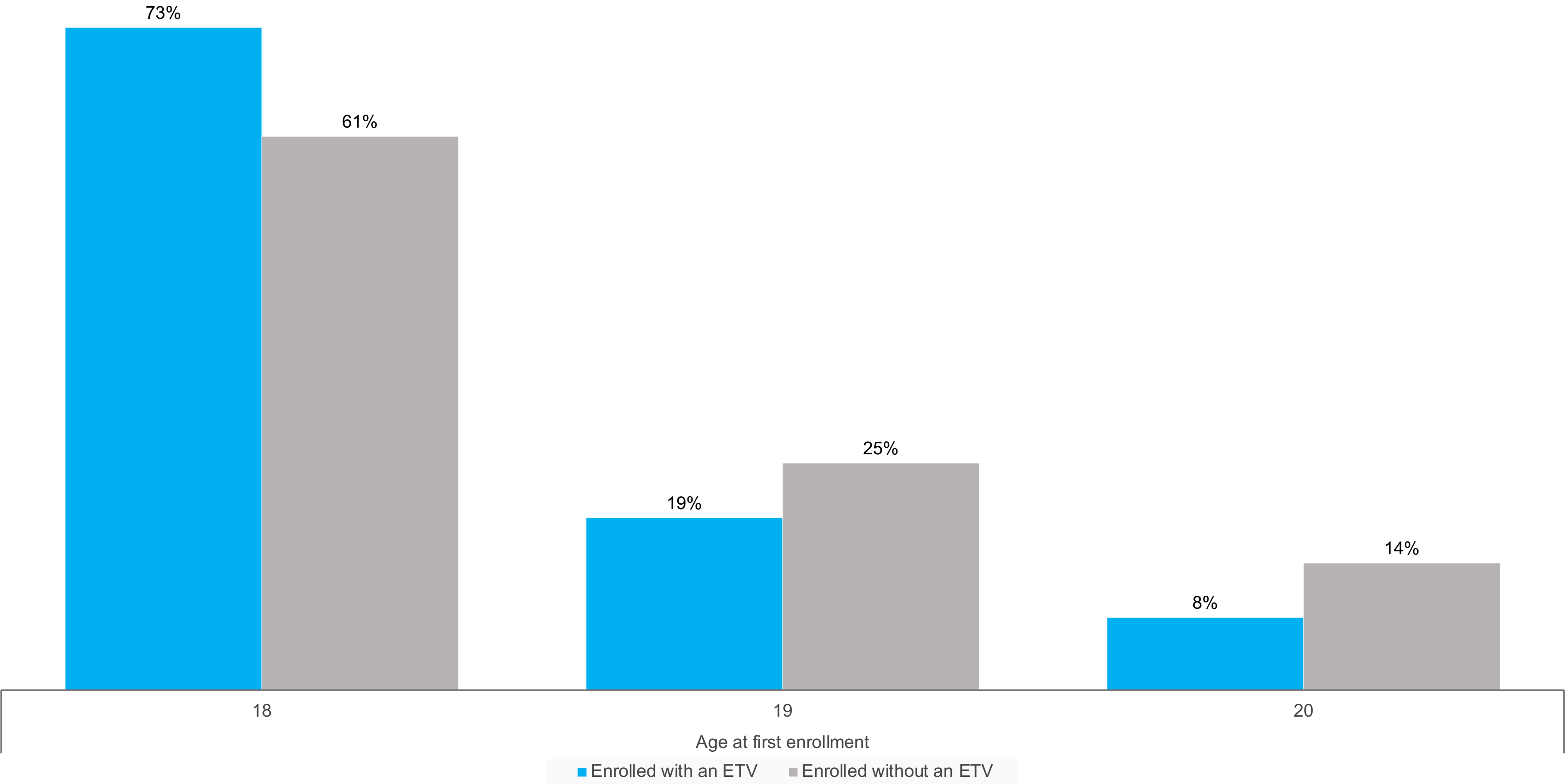
Average ETV amount used in CA

By age 23 in CA:

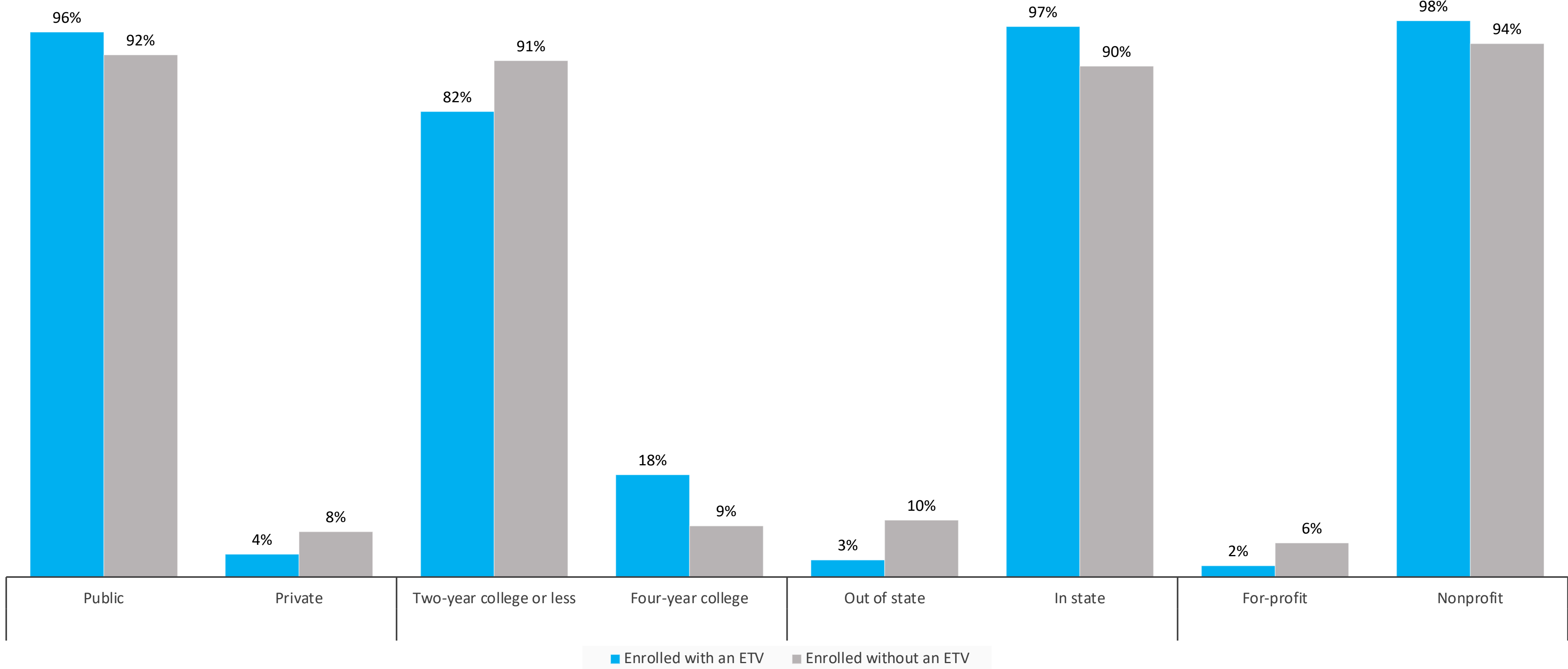


College Enrollment

ETV recipients tend to enroll in college at younger ages in California

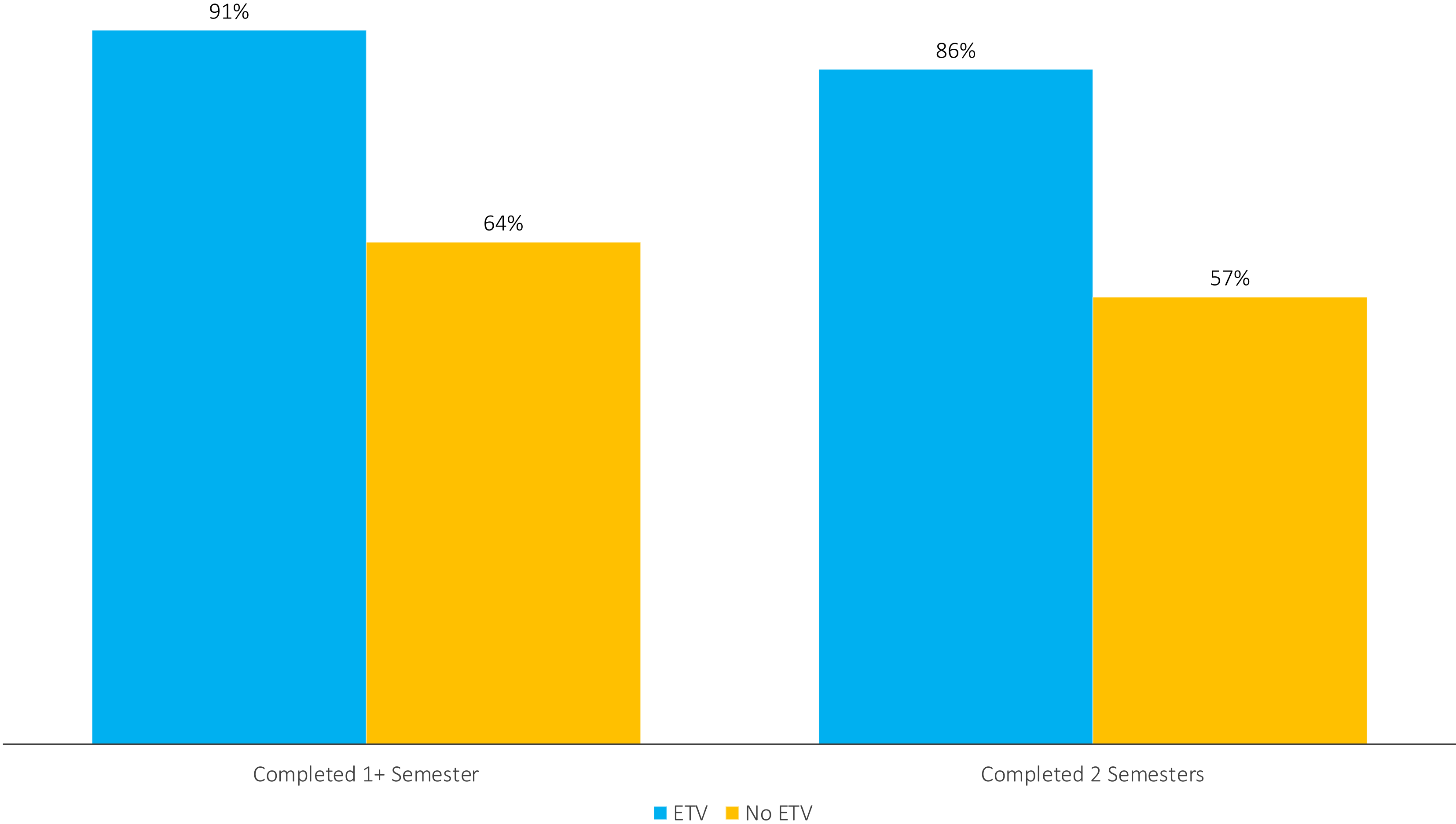


ETV recipients are more likely to enroll in four-year schools in California

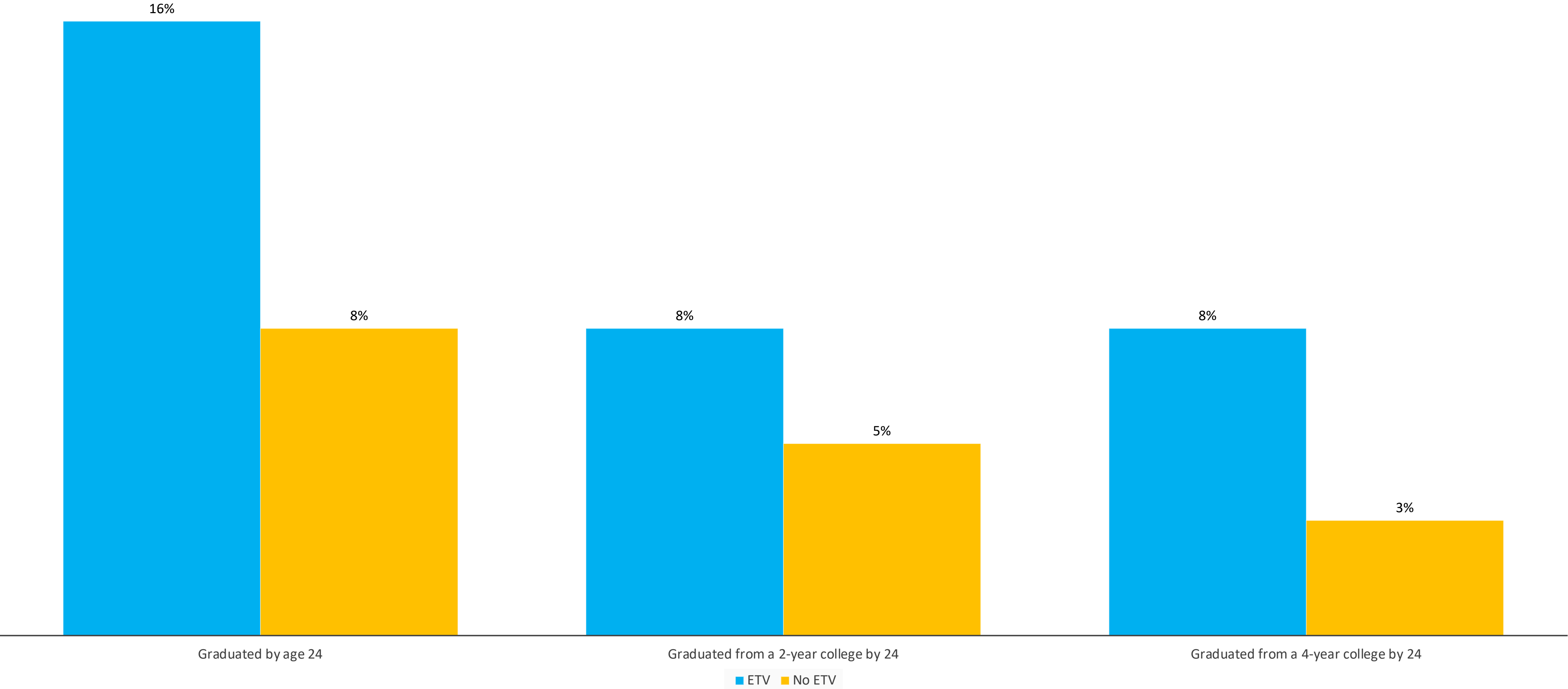


College Persistence

ETV recipients are more likely to persist in California



ETV recipients graduate at higher rates



Summary

- In California, compared to all students and compared to low-income students without foster care history, students with foster care history are:
 - more likely to [attend two-year, public schools](#).
 - more likely to [attend school part-time](#).
 - more likely to [live off campus](#).
 - have higher [unmet need](#).
- In California, compared to ETV eligible students who do not receive an ETV, students who receive an ETV are:
 - more likely to [enroll at earlier ages](#).
 - more likely to [attend a 4-year school](#).
 - more likely to [graduate](#).

Thank you!

- Urban Institute Presenters : Devlin Hanson, Laura Packard Tucker, Michael Pergamit
- This work was funded by Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, John Burton Advocates for Youth, The Stuart Foundation, and The Walter S. Johnson Foundation.
- This project was also supported by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (Contract #HHSP23320095654WC). The contents of this presentation do not necessarily represent the official views or policies of OPRE, ACF, or HHS.
- We are grateful to them and to all our funders, who make it possible for Urban to advance its mission.

SB 307: Fostering Futures

*Co-authored by Senator Ashby and Senate Majority Leader McGuire
Sponsored by John Burton Advocates for Youth*



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth

Goal of SB 307

Increase college completion rates among foster youth by establishing the Fostering Futures program, within the existing Middle Class Scholarship, to cover the full cost of attendance for foster youth attending a public college or university in California after accounting for other gift aid.



Christina Torres

**JBAY Youth
Advocate**



What is Cost of Attendance (COA)?

- The total amount is costs to attend college, including tuition, fees, and non-tuition costs, such as housing, books, supplies, meals, etc.



- Each college defines its COA, which varies by campus.
- A student may not receive financial aid that exceeds the COA set by their campus.

Despite Investments, Unmet Need Remains for Foster Youth

	California Community College
Average Full Time COA	\$26,420
California College Promise Grant (tuition)	\$1,222
Pell Grant	\$7,395
Cal Grant Foster Youth Access Award	\$6,000
Chafee grant	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$1,500
Unmet Need*	\$5,303

What is the Middle Class Scholarship (MCS)?



- Students must be pursuing a bachelor's degree at a CSU, UC or California Community College, or a teaching credential.
- Students must be low- to middle-income.
- Award amounts are based on Cost of Attendance and other available gift aid (i.e., state, federal and institutional aid), after accounting for:
 - A "self-help" contribution of \$7,898
 - A parent contribution for *dependent* students with a household income over \$100K

Middle Class Scholarship (cont.)



- Award amount is based on amount of allocation by legislature each year – in 2022/2023 covers 24% of the remaining cost for each student.
- Students must be
 - A California resident and
 - U.S. Citizen, permanent resident or meet non-resident tuition exemptions.
- Students must submit a FAFSA or CADAA by March 2nd.
- Students can receive the MCS for up to 4-years, (or 5 if pursuing a teaching credential).

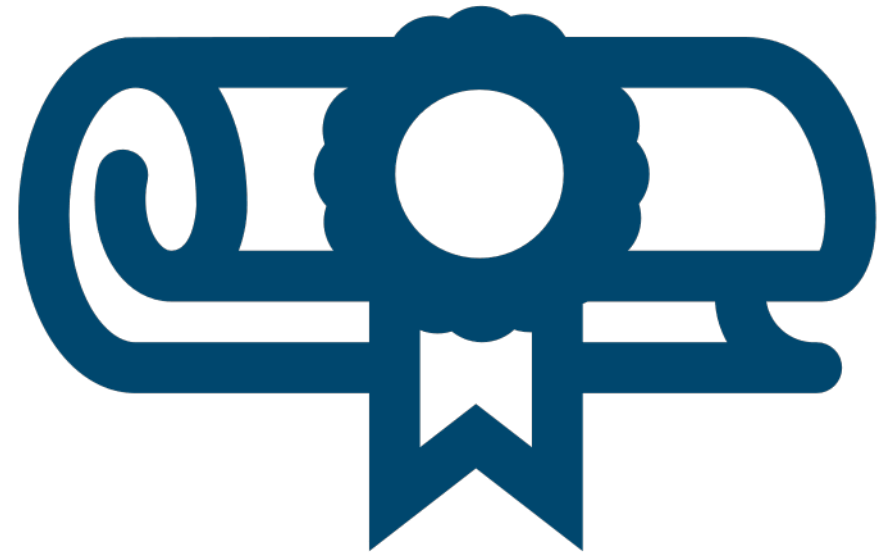
SB 307

Establish the
Fostering Futures
program, under the
Middle Class
Scholarship to **make**
college debt-free for
California's foster
youth

- Define foster youth as someone in out-of-home foster care placement after the age of 13 to align with existing financial aid and campus support programs.
- Remove the student “self-help” contribution requirement.
- Fund to cover 100% of remaining unmet need after other federal, state and institutional aid.
- Expand eligibility to foster youth enrolled in an associate’s degree, transfer pathway or certificate program at a California Community College.

SB 307 Overview Continued

- Allow foster youth attending a California Community College to submit a FAFSA or CADAA by September 2nd to align with the existing Cal Grant deadline.
- Allow students to participate in the program for up to eight years of undergraduate studies to mirror the existing Cal Grant B for foster youth.
- Allow more flexible standards already in place for the Chafee Grant (SB 150) that allow students who are struggling academically to maintain financial aid.
- Require CSAC to maintain a page on its website that describes the provisions under the title of “Fostering Futures Program” to simplify messaging and ensure that youth feel encouraged and supported to pursue postsecondary education.



Why eight years instead of four?

Aligns with the existing Cal Grant B for Foster Youth to **create consistency across programs.**

82% of foster youth start at a CCC, which increases completion time.

On average, it takes **7.9 years** obtain a bachelor's if a student begins at a **community college.**

Foster youth enrolled in CCC **completed courses at a rate of 62%** compared to 73% all students

Foster youth who obtain an associate's degree, take an **average of 88 units**, while **only 60 units are required.**

Cost

- Estimated to cost **\$21.8 million** annually to serve **4,317 students**
- Utilize *existing funding* from the MCS to first fully fund foster youth.



Impact



For non-foster youth:

- Their MCS award would drop by only \$61 or 3.5%.

For foster youth:

- Increased chances of college persistence and college completion.
- Decreased chances of poverty, homelessness and criminal justice involvement with a postsecondary degree or credential.

CALL TO ACTION



**Submit a letter of support or learn
more about SB 307 at:**

jbay.org/2023-policy-agenda/



QUESTIONS

Please type your questions in the
Q&A window

THANK YOU

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[JBAY.ORG](https://www.jbay.org)