

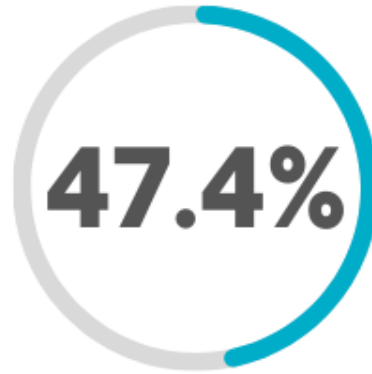


Legislative Interims Joint Standing Committee on Education Financial Aid Modernization

September 8, 2025



Challenge



WV College-Going Rate
(2023)



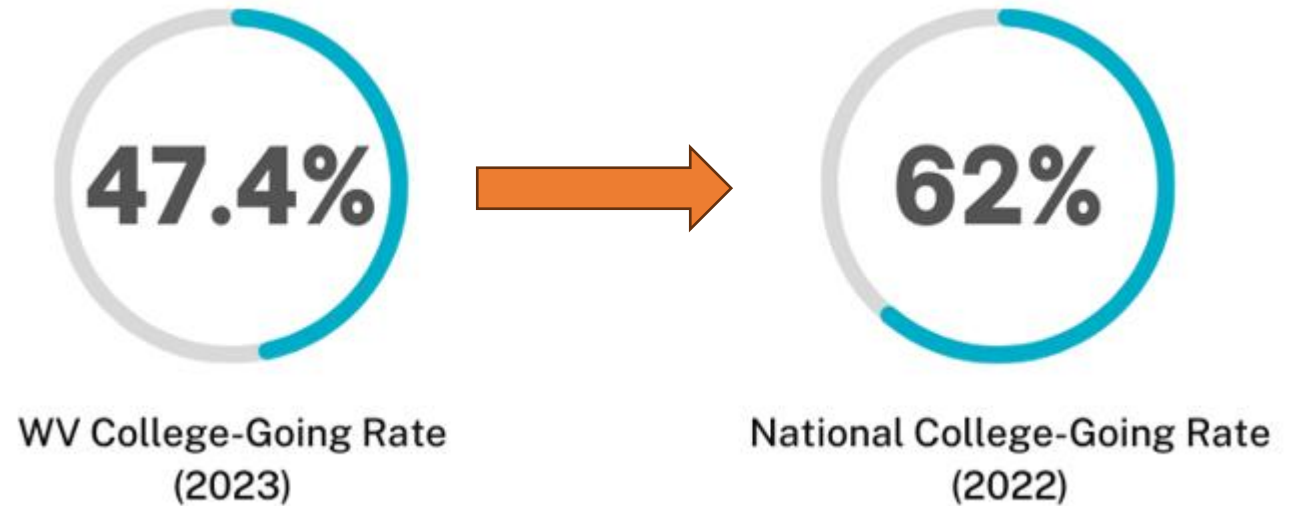
National College-Going Rate
(2022)

Average WV Public Four-Year Tuition: \$9,040

Average WV Public Two-Year Tuition: \$4,810

We've worked to get the answers.

- High School Students
- WVHEPC / WVCTCS Data
- Applicants/Recipients of Promise/Invests
- High School Counselors & Financial Aid Staff



High School Opinion Survey

All respondents

What are the top 3 factors in your decision to attend your college?

College affordability

Distance between the college and home

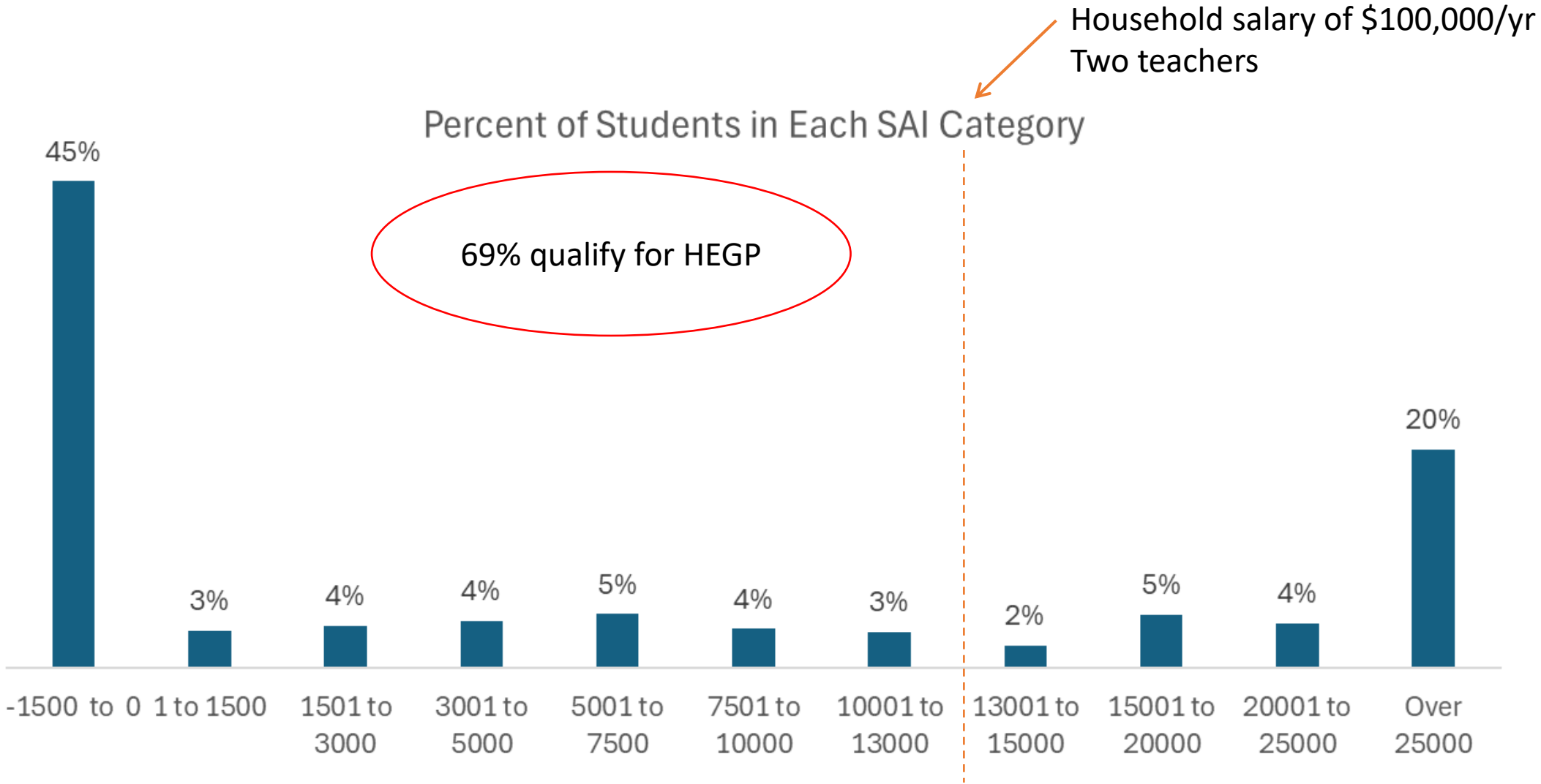
Academic reputation of programs

Students not planning to attend college 2024-2025

What are the top 3 factors in your decision not to attend college?

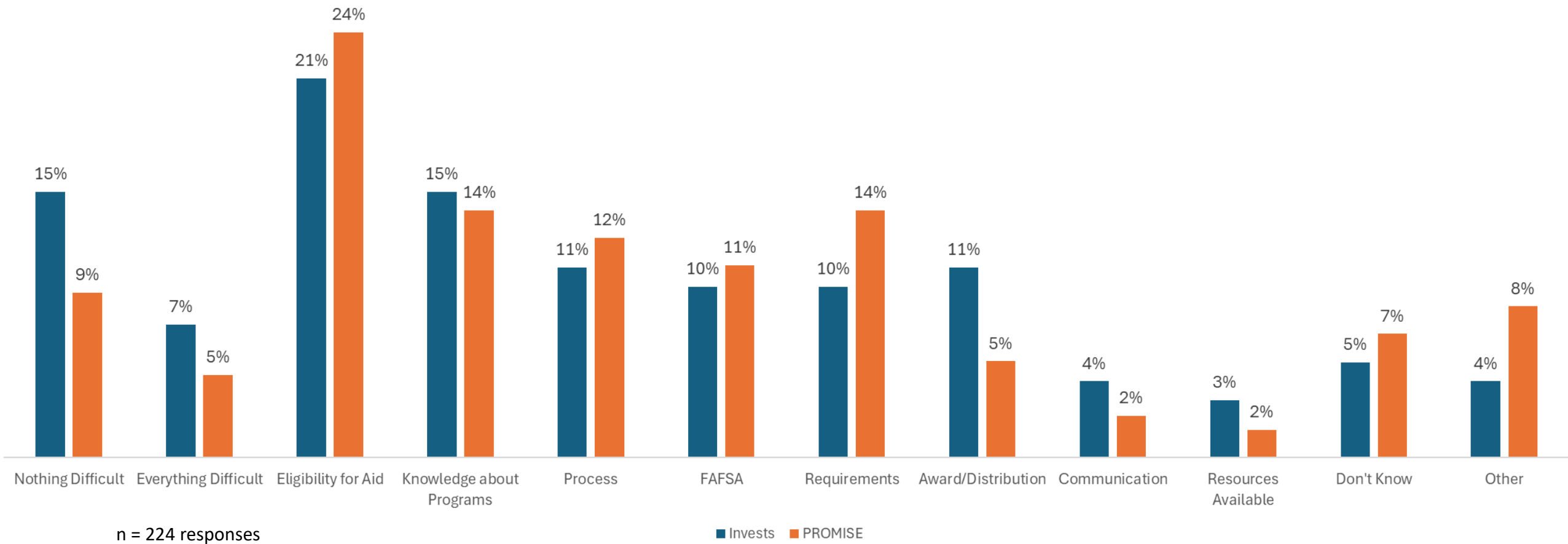
The cost of going to college is too high	I am uncertain regarding my choice of major	College is not related to my future occupation	I want to work first and earn some money to pay for college	No one in my family has ever	Most of my friends will not be going
	My grades are not good enough to go to college	I will have a well-paying job after high school		There is not a college nearby	
			I need to work to help support my family		

WVHEPC / WVCTCS Data



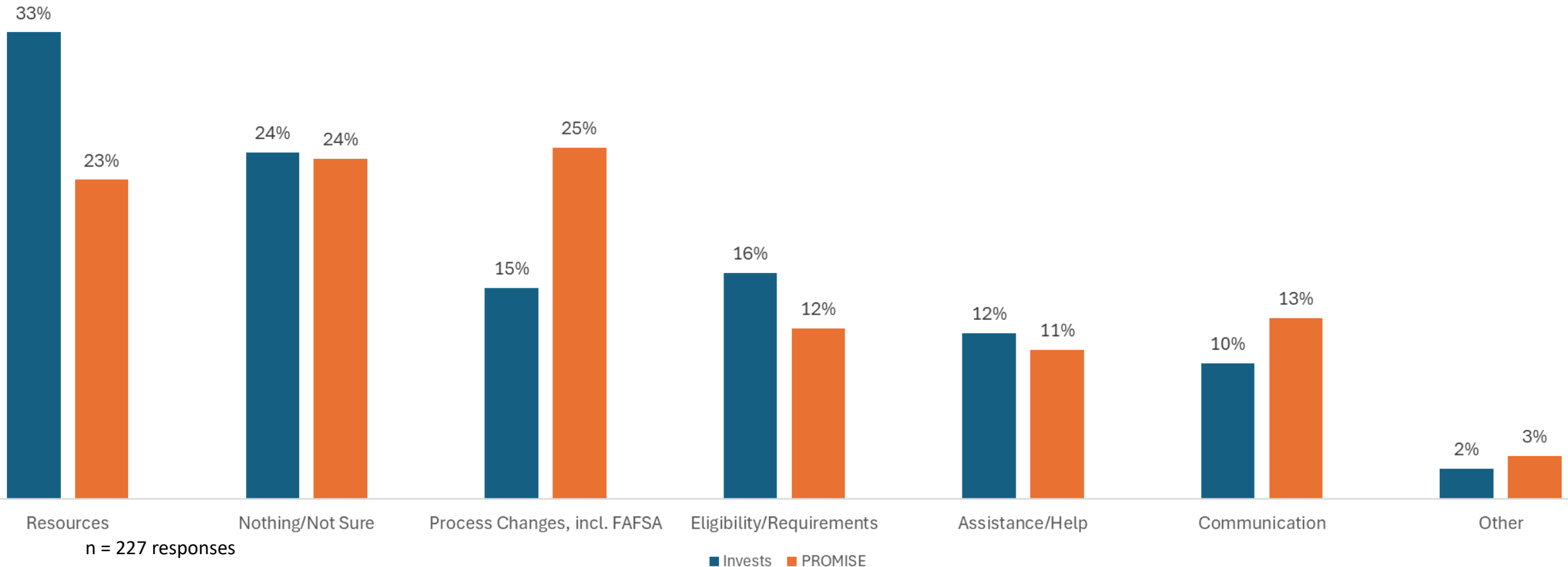
Applicants/Recipients of Promise/Invests

What specific financial aid information has been the most difficult for you to find or understand?



Students would like additional resources available and streamlined processes, including those with FAFSA

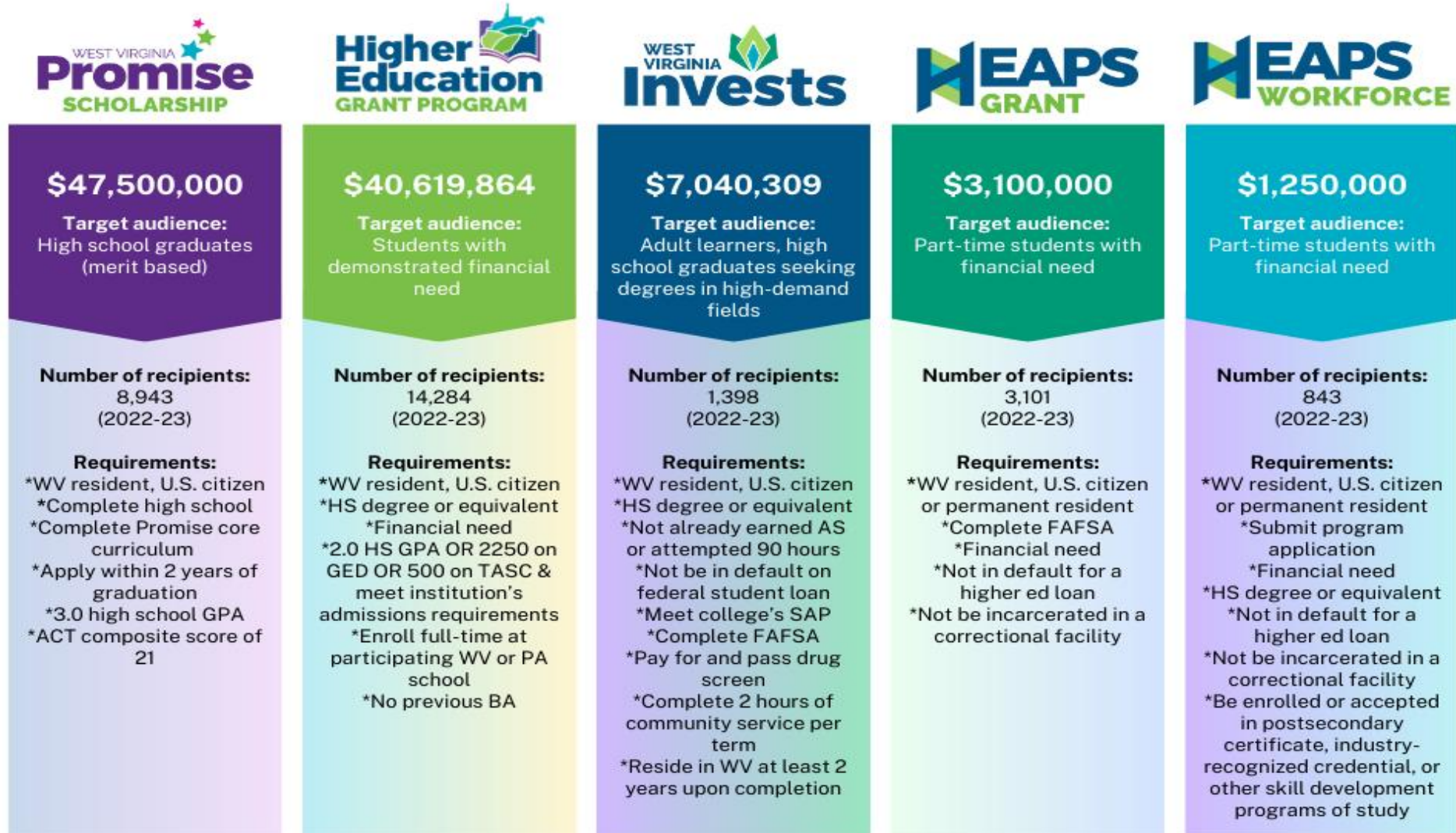
What would make the financial aid application process easier for you personally?



High School Counselors & Financial Aid Staff

- Students are unclear about what they are eligible for, and the requirements of each program should they receive an award.
 - **Specific example: Invests Program Drug Testing**
 - Timing – within 60 days of start
 - Cost – \$45
 - Results – .45% test positive ('25-'26) / .46% ('24 – '25)
- **Students say they would like a single source/application where they can get all relevant information in simple language and be able to track application progress.**

WV Financial Aid Overview





\$1,478,349

Target audience:
Students seeking
degrees to teach in WV

Number of recipients:
100
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *HS senior or recent graduate who plans to pursue BA degree in teacher prep program
- *Never been enrolled as degree-seeking student
- *3.25 HS GPA
- *21 ACT score or SAT 530 in math and 480 in English
- *U.S. citizen, or hold EAD, or hold work permit
- *Teach in WV for 5 years upon completion (in math, science, elementary or special education)



**INCLUDED IN
SCHOLARS
APPROPRIATION**

Target audience:
Educators teaching in
high-need areas in WV

Number of recipients:
82
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *Teachers or counselors working in high-need fields and high-need geographic areas defined each year by WV Department of Education,
- *Receive \$3,000 for 2 years of service
- *Can be renewed up to \$15,000



\$452,831

Target audience:
Students pursuing
careers in STEM

Number of recipients:
264
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *US citizen or resident alien who is an eligible non-citizen
- *3.0 HS GPA & 3.0 GPA after 2 semesters of undergrad coursework
- *Be enrolled or accepted in science, technology, engineering or math program leading to certificate, associate, or BA



\$5,810,625

Target audience:
High school students
seeking dual enrollment
courses

Number of recipients:
4,682
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *Be in an approved pathway
- *Submitted by college for reimbursement



\$1,225,676

Target audience:
Veterinary, Podiatry,
Optometry programs
outside WV

Number of recipients:
56
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *Signed participating agreements with the institutions to "hold" certain number of seats for WV residents each academic year
- *Interested students must submit an application and associated residency documents verifying WV residency
- *HEPC vets optometry students and WVU vets veterinary students



\$2,600,000

Target audience:
Current and future WV nursing professionals

Number of recipients:
295
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- Enrolled in WV nursing program half-time+
- *Employed within 6 months of graduation
- *Practice nursing for 1 year for each year award was received for LPN, and 2 years for each awarded year for RN
- *Master's or doctoral recipients teach for 2 years for each awarded year
- *LPN certificate recipients teach for 1 year for each awarded year



\$547,470

Target audience:
Non-resident WV medical students

Number of recipients:
12 per year, renewable up to 4 years

Requirements:

- *Accepted or enrolled at Marshall University, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, or West Virginia University in a program leading to a Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy degree
- Meet institutional requirements as an out-of-state student
- *Not in default of any previous student loan
- *Employed full-time or part-time at an eligible practice site



**FUNDED BY
MEDICAL STUDENT
FEES**

Target audience:
Medical students with financial need

Number of recipients:
154
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *U.S citizen or legal immigrant pursuing citizenship
- *Accepted or enrolled full-time at approved WV medical school
- *Meet designated academic standards
- *Demonstrate financial need
- *Not in default on any student loans



\$226,251

Target audience:
Health professions students who agree to practice in underserved areas upon graduation

Number of recipients:
11
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *Complete 2 years of full-time service or 4 years of part-time service upon completion of education and training



\$330,000

Target audience:
Practicing mental health professionals

Number of recipients:
24
(2022-23)

Requirements:

- *Agree to complete a service obligation to deliver therapy or counseling service in underserved areas of WV

We are ready to make improvements.

Opportunity:

Create meaningful change in program requirements

Create a new financial aid system that makes it easier to:

- Find resources/information
- Apply
- Track status
- Follow requirements
- Begin next steps

