



Higher Education: Quality, Affordability & Opportunity

We believe that a college degree is a springboard to higher earning potential, and college access and success should extend equitably to all students. As it stands, however, students from low-income families and students of color far too often experience a lack of access to college, high student loan debt attainment and default, and low levels of degree completion. On America's top 150 college campuses, an individual is 25 times more likely to bump into a student from a rich family than a student from a working-class or low-income family. Additionally, white students earn bachelor's degrees at nearly twice the rate of Black students and nearly three times the rate of Latino students. We are working to advance policies to address these inequities and improve student access and success in higher education.

We support:

Improving and expanding dual enrollment opportunities.

Problem: According to the DC Policy Center, only 36 percent of former D.C. high school students who enroll in postsecondary complete it within six years of enrolling.

Policy Solution: We support improving and expanding dual enrollment opportunities in D.C. public schools and charter high schools so that students can graduate from high school with credits transferable to college.

Ending the legacy preference in college admissions.

Problem: As it currently stands the legacy preference disproportionately benefits white students and wealthier students, leaving students of color and students from low-income backgrounds having fewer seats in college classrooms.

Policy Solution: We support eliminating the legacy preference and increasing socioeconomic diversity at these institutions, particularly for low-income students of color in D.C.



**To join us in advocating for these policies,
please contact Joshua Hodge (jhodge@dfer.org).**