

Student Transfer in New England

Are we making progress?

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About the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)

- Established in 1955 to promote resource sharing and greater educational opportunities and services for the New England region and residents.
- Programs include
 - Regional Student Program (Tuition Break)
 - Policy and Research
 - State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
 - New England Journal of Higher Education

NEBHE's Transfer Initiative



Transfer check-in

Is your state's transfer system working? How do you know?

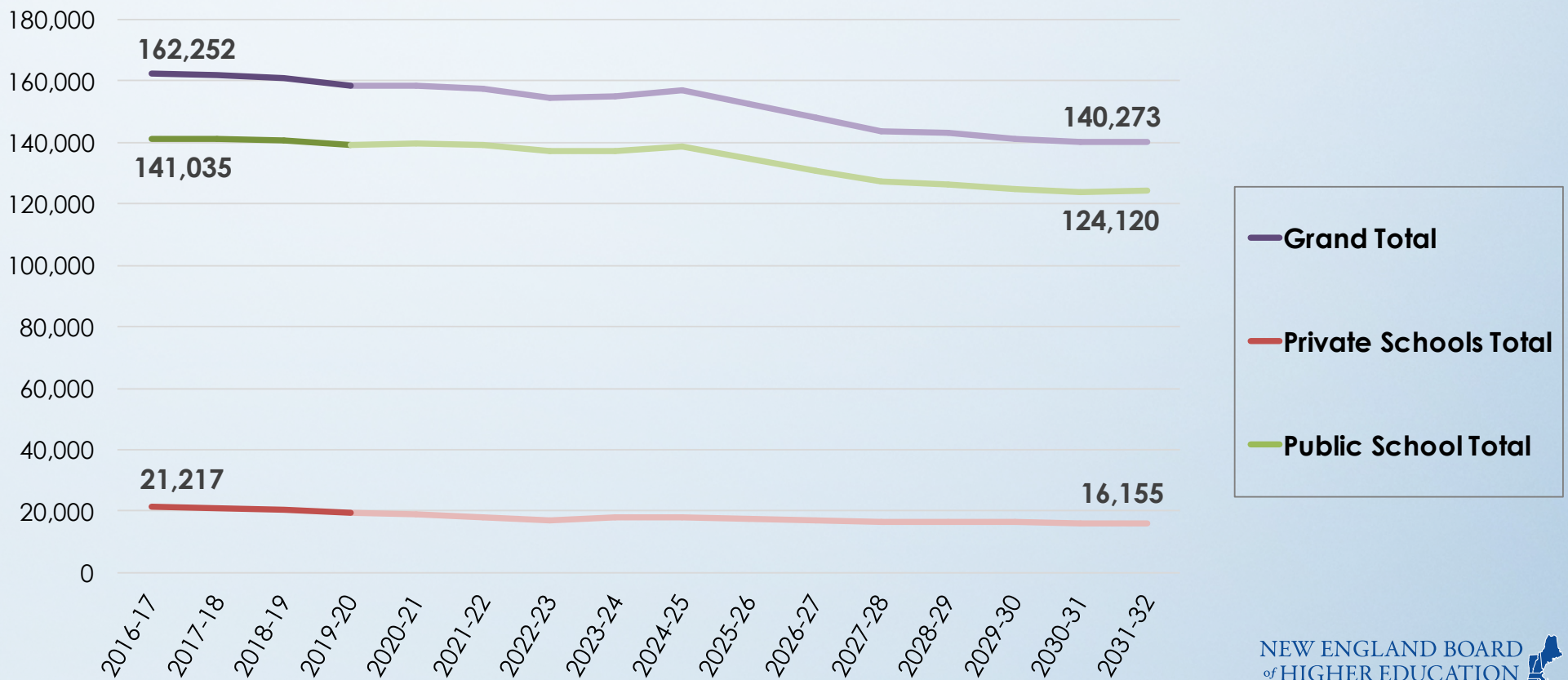
What are the current challenges in transfer?



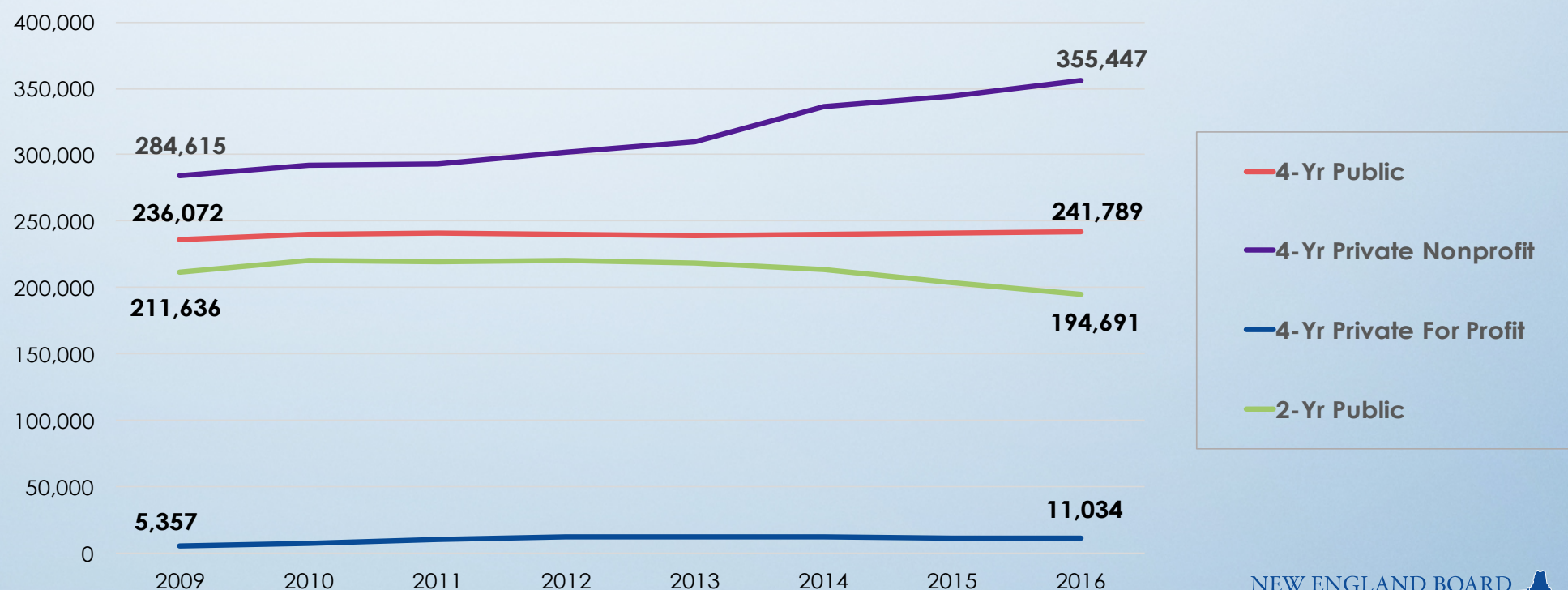
A photograph of a large, empty church sanctuary. The room is filled with rows of wooden pews, each with a blue cushion. The pews are arranged in a wide aisle, and the sanctuary extends far into the background. The walls are light-colored, and there are some religious paintings or stained glass windows visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is quiet and empty, which visually represents the concept of low enrollment.

What enrollment challenges are we facing in New England?

Projected Number of High School Graduates in New England by Sector: 2016-2031



Fall Undergraduate Enrollment at Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions in New England, by Sector: 2009-2016



Share of Enrollment at Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions in New England, by Sector: 2016

436,000

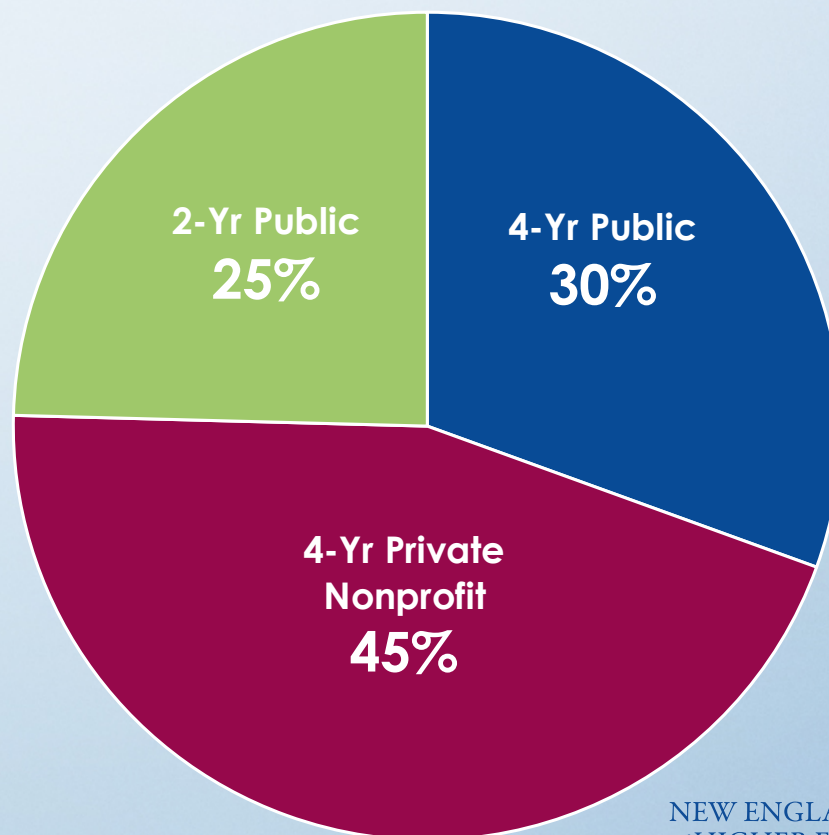
Total enrollment at public 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions in New England.

55%

Percentage of students in New England enrolled at public institutions

1.8%/8,036

Decline in enrollment at New England's public colleges and universities from 2015 to 2016.



Total Number of Public and Private 2- and 4-Year Colleges and Universities in New England: 2004-05 to 2016-17



-7.33%

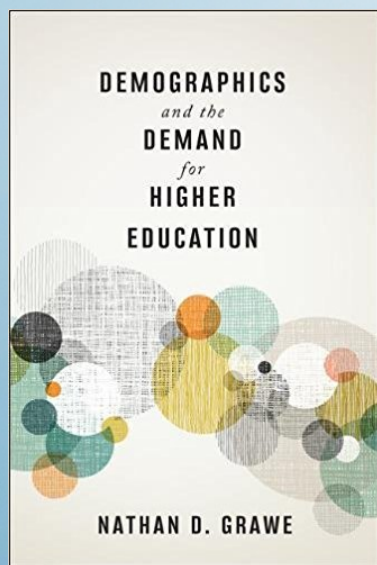
Percent decline in supply of postsecondary institutions in New England since 2004-05

19

Number of fewer postsecondary institutions in New England since 2004-05 due to closure or merger



A New Approach to Projecting Higher Education



Nathan Grawe's *Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education*



Higher Demand Index

Sector	Projections
2-Year Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2% national increase through 2025, followed by sharp decline• 13% decrease by 2029• 15%+ decline in New England
4-Year Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modest (2%) growth until 2025, then steep decline• 2025-2029: projected loss of 280,000 students nationally• New England net decline of 25%
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Population growth shifting to Southwest, especially Hispanic population• 2025-2030: college-going population shrinking by 450,000

Current NEBHE Reporting and Research

- Are states in the region were making progress in developing policies and practices that:
 - Facilitate transfer
 - Mitigate credit loss
 - Offer students who began at a community college and transferred to a four-year institution the opportunity to earn an associate degree through reverse transfer

What do we know?

- NEBHE has compiled updated transfer policy information based off of the 2018 Education Commission of the States (ECS) report, *50-State Comparison: Transfer and Articulation Policies*.
 - ECS Transfer metrics include:
 - 1) Transferable Core of Lower Division Courses
 - 2) Statewide Common Course Numbering (NEBHE reports on Course Equivalency)
 - 3) Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Assoc. Degree
 - 4) Statewide Reverse Transfer

How important is policy versus practice?

How well do you know transfer policy in your home state?

Connecticut

Transferable Core of Lower Division Courses	Course Equivalency	Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Assoc. Degree	Statewide Reverse Transfer
No*	No*	No*	No*

** Policy does not include the University of Connecticut*

- System-wide transfer policies have been developed by the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (the University of Connecticut is not party to the CSCU transfer policies).
- Transfer Ticket allows associate-degree-holding students guaranteed transfer to CSCU four-year institutions with junior status in their major.
- Interactive website, the Transfer Navigator, which highlights the Tickets by Major tool.

Maine

Transferable Core of Lower Division Courses	Course Equivalency	Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Assoc. Degree	Statewide Reverse Transfer
No	Yes	Yes	Yes

- Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System have built transfer practices organically - through collaboration and a commitment to a shared vision.
- While Maine does not have a completely transferable core policy, the state does offer a general education transfer block for associate of arts degrees and is currently in the process of creating a transferable block for all associate of science degrees.

Massachusetts

Transferable Core of Lower Division Courses	Course Equivalency	Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Assoc. Degree	Statewide Reverse Transfer
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

- MassTransfer website provides students with a one-stop transfer resource and student-friendly guide. Highlighted transfer programs within MassTransfer include: General Education Foundation, A2B (Associates to Bachelor's) , A2B Degree Plus Commonwealth Commitment and Reverse Transfer.
- The Massachusetts' Department of Higher Education has begun the process of tracking transfer students through their various transfer pathways, programs and awarded degrees.

New Hampshire

Transferable Core of Lower Division Courses	Course Equivalency	Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Assoc. Degree	Statewide Reverse Transfer
No	No	No	No

- Two higher education systems - the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) and the University System of New Hampshire (USNH).
- CCSNH and USNH are currently developing statewide transfer practices. The state has prioritized the development of course equivalencies, 2+2 maps for USNH institutions, reverse transfer, and a data exchange system to facilitate information sharing. Current transfer programs include the Dual Admissions program and Public Promise.

Rhode Island

Transferable Core of Lower Division Courses	Course Equivalency	Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Assoc. Degree	Statewide Reverse Transfer
No	No	No	Yes

- Rhode Island's current transfer programs and initiatives include a Joint Admissions Agreement and a statewide Reverse Transfer program.
- Rhode Island provides students with a course equivalency platform, the Transfer Evaluation System, however, not all equivalencies guarantee transfer of credit. The state also has developed Program Transfer Plans that provide guidelines for potential transfer students.

Vermont

Transferable Core of Lower Division Courses	Course Equivalency	Statewide Guaranteed Transfer of Assoc. Degree	Statewide Reverse Transfer
No	No	No	No

- Vermont has effective long-standing institutional practices that link the Community College of Vermont (CCV) and the Vermont State Colleges (VSC) system.
- The VSCS Direct Admissions program provides CCV students with guaranteed admission to Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, or Vermont Technical College.
- CCV and VSC have streamlined student transcripts across the system that utilizes a state course database.

Best Practices



Comprehensive and Transparent Transfer Website

Building and maintaining a clear and easy to use website is an integral component to solve the transfer puzzle and sets students up for success.

States to watch: Massachusetts (MassTransfer), Connecticut (Transfer Navigator)



Collection and Analysis of Transfer Students' Persistence and Completion

Enhance data collection by not only tracking general transfer students, but the subsets of students transferring through specific programs. With this data, states can develop new or refine existing policies and practices.

States to watch: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts



Reverse Transfer

Offers potential benefits to institutions and helps states reach attainment goals, and has the capacity to impact funding for states incentivizing outcomes, enrollment and completion rates, as well as decrease student loan default rates.

States to watch: Connecticut (system-level), Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island



Transferable Core

Credit loss not only places a financial burden on students, but also impacts student persistence. A transferable core of general education courses helps mitigate the negative impact of credit loss by guaranteeing credits will fully transfer.

States to watch: Connecticut (system level), Maine (Associates of Arts Transfer Block), Massachusetts

Did we miss anything? Suggestions?

NEBHE's Recommendations

1. Transparency and Information Dissemination

- Provide user-friendly, detailed information on state- or system-specific requirements related to transfer to a public four-year institution. The information should include state transfer pathways designed to reduce cost to earning a four-year degree or any other related state transfer initiative. If applicable, list courses or programs not covered by the transfer policy.
- Develop and update a one-stop state transfer website that includes transfer and reverse transfer information.
- Provide, on the website, the option to ask questions or redirect students to on-campus resources for answers.
- Develop a public engagement campaign to inform and drive students considering transfer to the website.
- Make course syllabi available online to more easily compare courses, including competencies/outcomes and means of assessing competencies. Share course equivalencies, especially as they provide a vehicle for transfer in-state and out-of-state.

NEBHE's Recommendations

2. Collection and Analysis of Transfer Students' Persistence and Completion

- Collect state data on transfer and reverse transfer to analyze patterns and possible areas of policy development and improvement and to answer questions like:
 - How many credits are lost when students transfer from community college to a public four-year?
 - Which colleges appear to accept the most credits, the least credits?
 - Which courses are being successfully transferred?
- Include, in the state transfer analysis, credit loss using data from the National Student Clearinghouse or institutional reporting.
- Consider participating in a research project on credit loss for students who transfer across state borders in the region.

NEBHE's Recommendations

3. New England Interstate Transfer Pilot

- Consider piloting a transfer compact agreement for two lower division courses like College Math and English Composition to promote student success in the region.

How can we continue to improve transfer in the region? Let's discuss!

Your recommendations?

What can NEBHE do for you?



For additional Information, contact us!

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Read the brief at:

nebhe.org/info/pdf/policy/Policy_Spotlight_Student_Transfer.pdf