

Student Transfer in New England

Are we making progress?

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NEBHE's Transfer Initiative



A National Perspective: The Transfer Landscape

Among all undergrads who started in 2011 (2.8 million students)

- 38% attended 2 or more institutions within 6 years or earned a bachelors degree
- 39.4% of those who started at a 4-year public
- 38.5% of those who started at a 4-year independent
- 36.9% of those who started at a community college

Almost half (47%) of those who transferred did so more than once

And that is just within the first six years

A National Perspective: The Transfer Landscape

Among all Bachelors degree recipients in 2014/15 (1.5 million graduates)

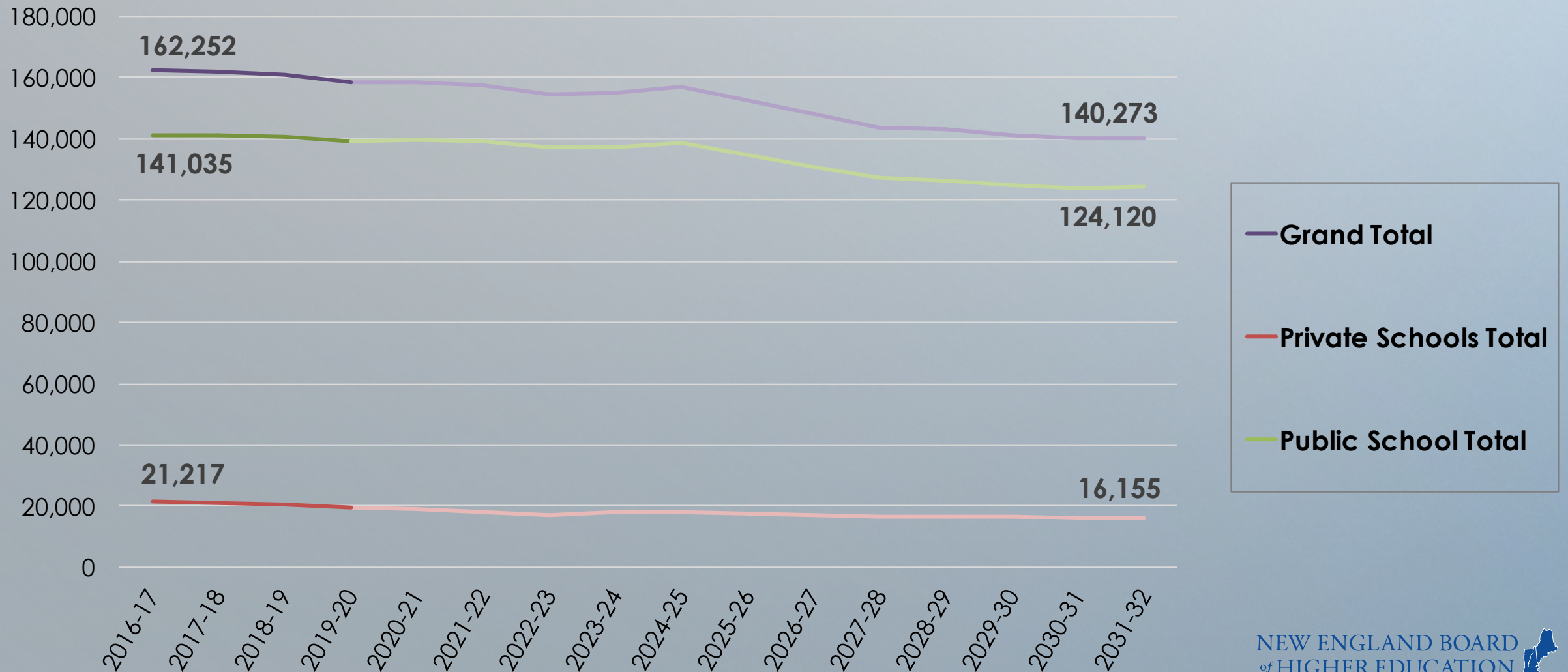
- 65% attended two or more institutions
 - 63% of those who started at age 20 or younger
- 25% attended three or more institutions
- 55% had attended a community college
 - 20% had earned an Associates degree

Among all Associates Degree recipients in 2014/15 (.5

A large, empty theater with rows of blue seats and wooden armrests, viewed from the side. The seats are arranged in a tiered fashion, and the theater has a high ceiling with arched windows in the background.

**What enrollment challenges are
we facing in New England?**

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



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

436,000

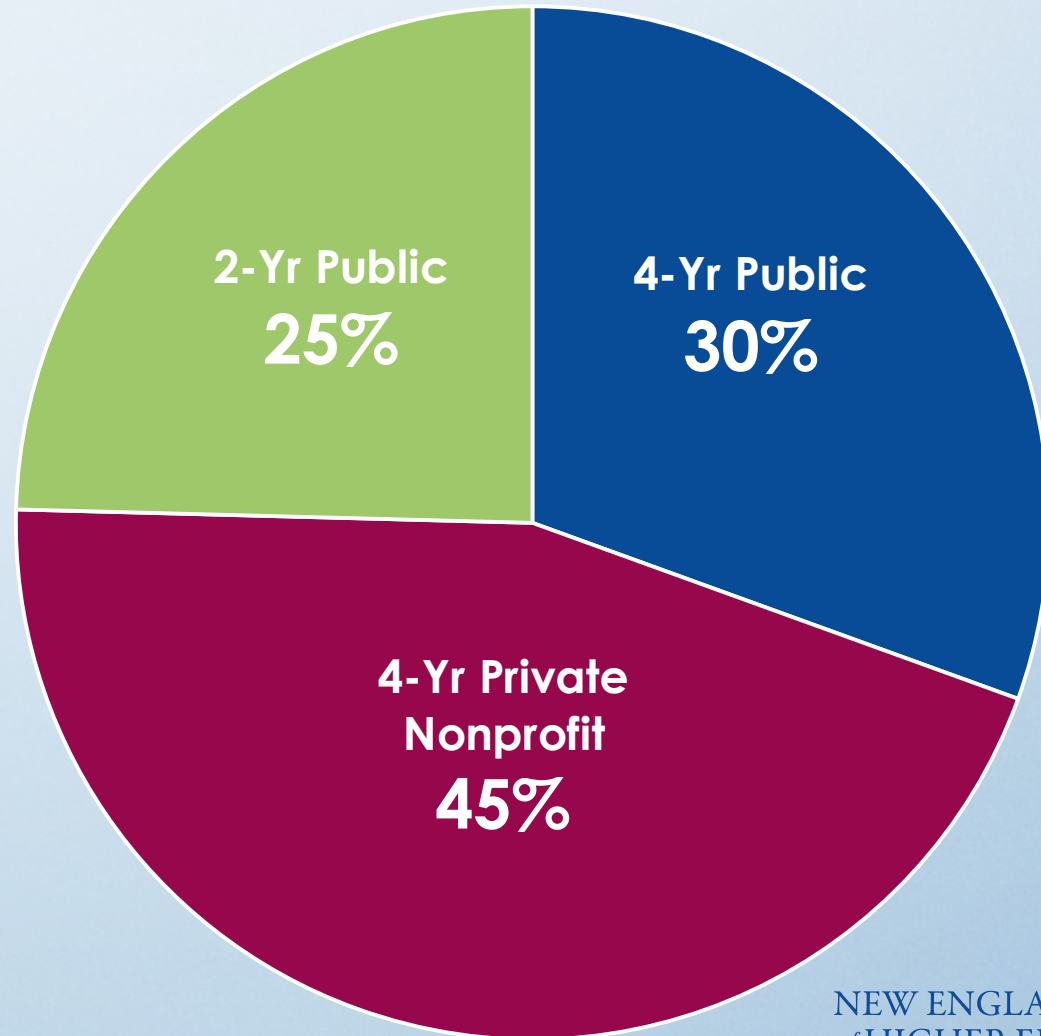
Total enrollment at public 2- and 4-year postsecondary institutions in New England.

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.



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?

A National Perspective: State Transfer Legislation and Policies

- At least 30 states have policies requiring a transferable core of lower-division courses and statewide guaranteed transfer of an associate degree (MA, ME)
- Seventeen states have reverse transfer policies set in legislation or board policy. (ME, RI) An additional 22 states provide reverse transfer opportunities outside of policy, including through institutional agreements, MOUs and statewide programs (MA, VT)
- States continue refine multiple transfer policies in an effort to increase student credit transfer and postsecondary completion rates

Source: *50-State Comparison: Transfer and Articulation Policy*, Education Commission of the States June 2018

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

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.

New Transfer Initiative:

New England Independent College Guarantee

- NEBHE has been awarded a seven month planning grant from the Teagle Foundation.
- NEBHE will be partnering with the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM), Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island (AICURI).
- The Guarantee will assure acceptance at an independent nonprofit four-year institution for students graduating from a community college with an associates degree and seeking to enroll in liberal arts degree path.
- The overarching aim of the project is for students, who meet eligibility criteria and are covered under the Guarantee, to be able to transfer as juniors and be fully prepared to successfully complete a bachelor's degree.

For additional Information, contact us!

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Read the brief at:

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