

Partnerships for Affordability and Student Success (PASS) Act

State Formula Grant – The *Partnership for Access and Student Success Act* establishes a state formula grant program to improve college access, affordability, and completion. Funds are distributed to states based on poverty and college attainment. Funds are to be used for the following activities:

- Need-based grant aid.
- Grants to institutions of higher education or partnerships between institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations to support activities that seek to improve student outcomes, including enrollment, completion, and employment, and to develop innovative methods for reducing college costs.
- Public accountability and consumer information – no more than 8 percent of the funds may be used for providing public accountability and consumer information on the performance of institutions of higher education in the state.

Matching Requirement – States must provide one dollar for every two federal dollars. In order to be eligible for formula grants, states must:

- Meet maintenance of effort requirements and use federal funds to supplement and not supplant state funding for higher education;
- Fulfill the state's program integrity role for the student aid programs; and
- Have or develop a comprehensive plan for postsecondary education that is aligned with the elementary and secondary education plan for the state and the workforce and economic development plan of the state. This comprehensive plan must include measurable goals for student outcomes and college affordability.

Annual Report – Each state receiving funds is required to report annually to the public on its progress in meeting its postsecondary education goals. The report must include:

- Information on student outcomes, including enrollment and completion rates, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, disability status, and socio-economic status;
- Information on workforce outcomes of graduates;
- Information on college costs, including tuition increases, student debt, and the availability of need-based aid; and
- Information on higher education-related consumer complaints reported to the state.