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# SB 12: IMPROVING COLLEGE OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER YOUTH THROUGH BETTER ACCESS TO THE PELL GRANT

FEBRUARY 14, 2017



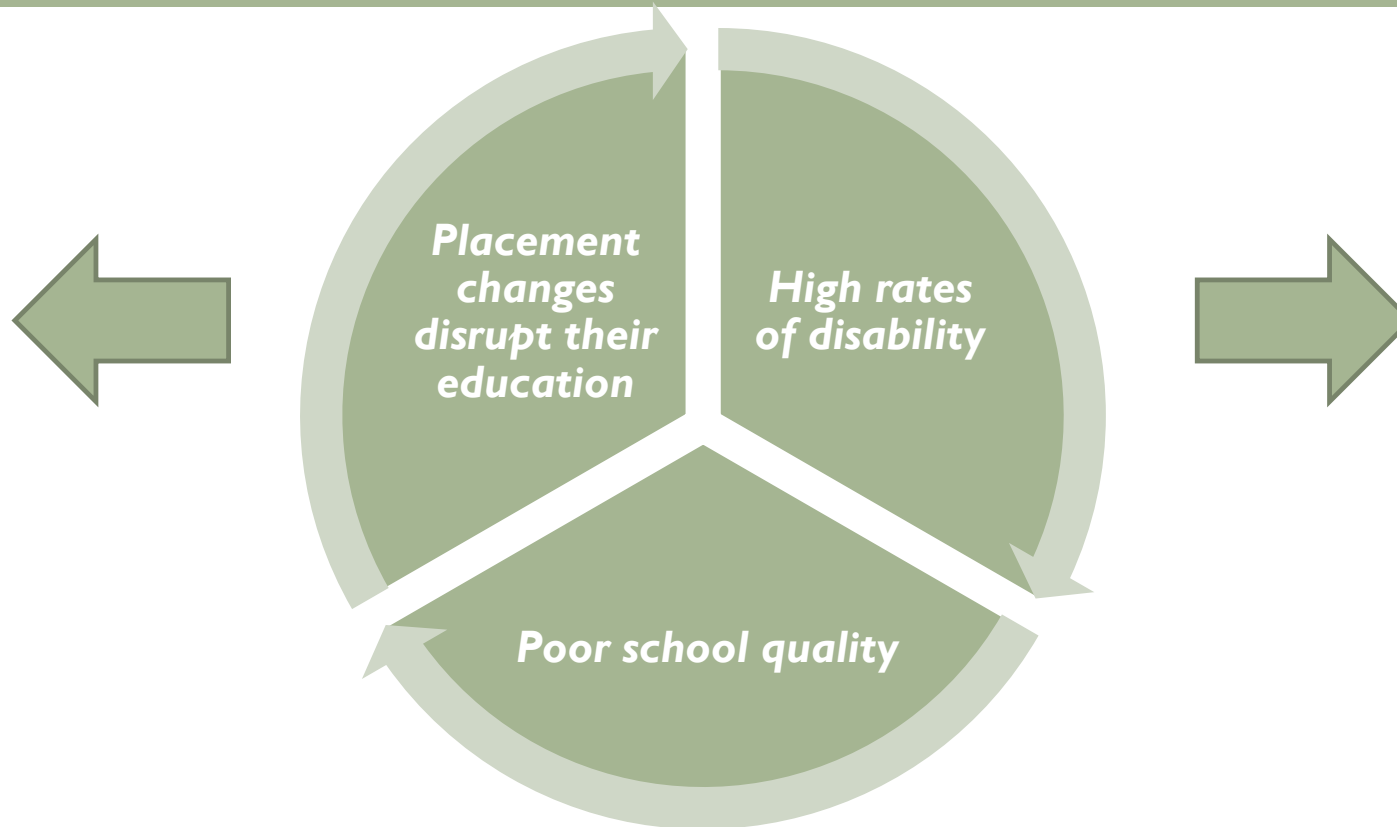
**JOHN  
BURTON**  
Advocates for Youth

# AGENDA

- Introductions
- Review of educational outcomes of youth in foster care
- Provisions of Senate Bill 12
- How you can help
- Q & A

# WHY DO FOSTER YOUTH EXPERIENCE POOR ACADEMIC OUTCOMES?

Children and youth in foster care are **four** times more likely to change schools in a given school year than other students.

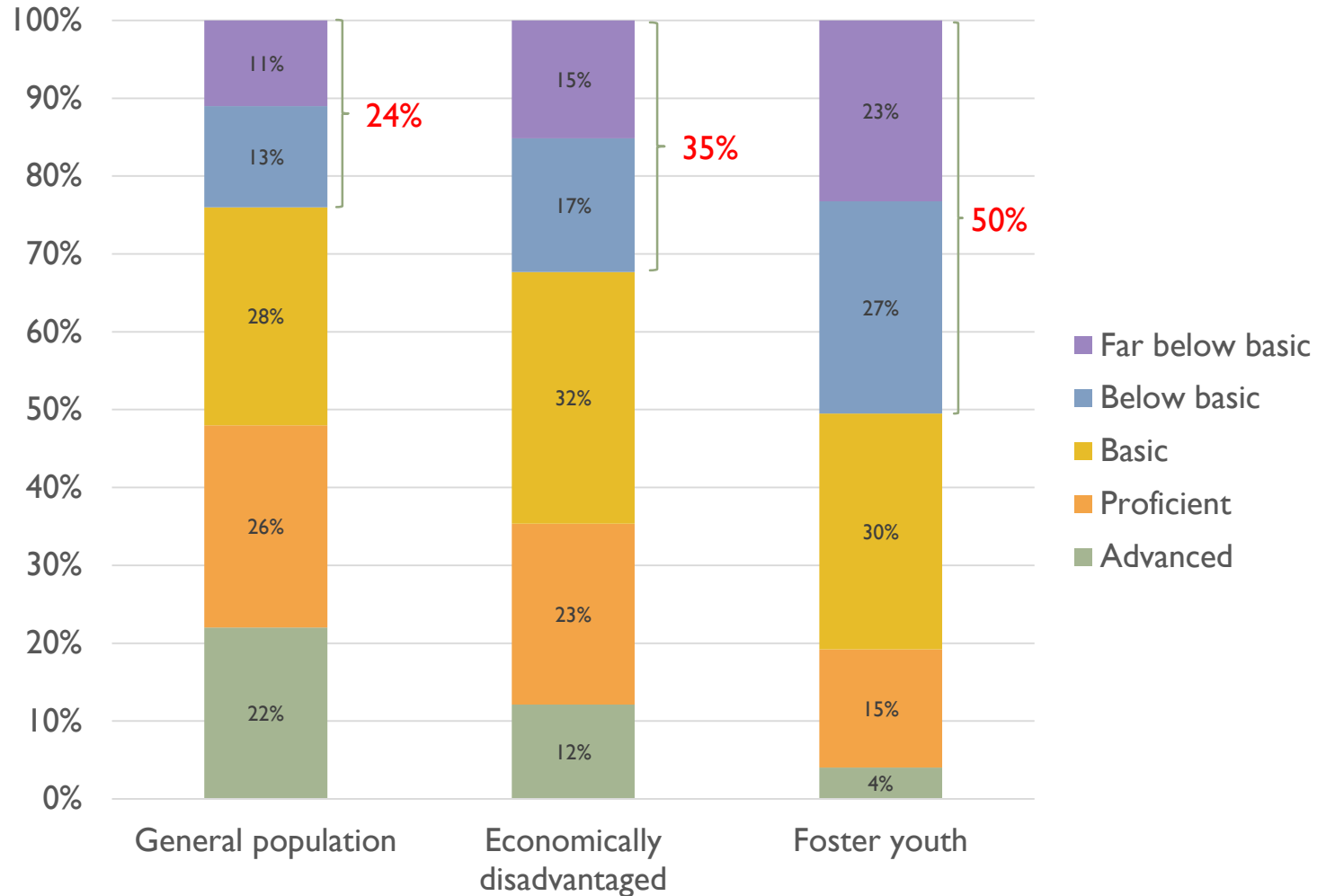


Over one in five youth in foster care has a disability, **almost three times** the rate of the general population

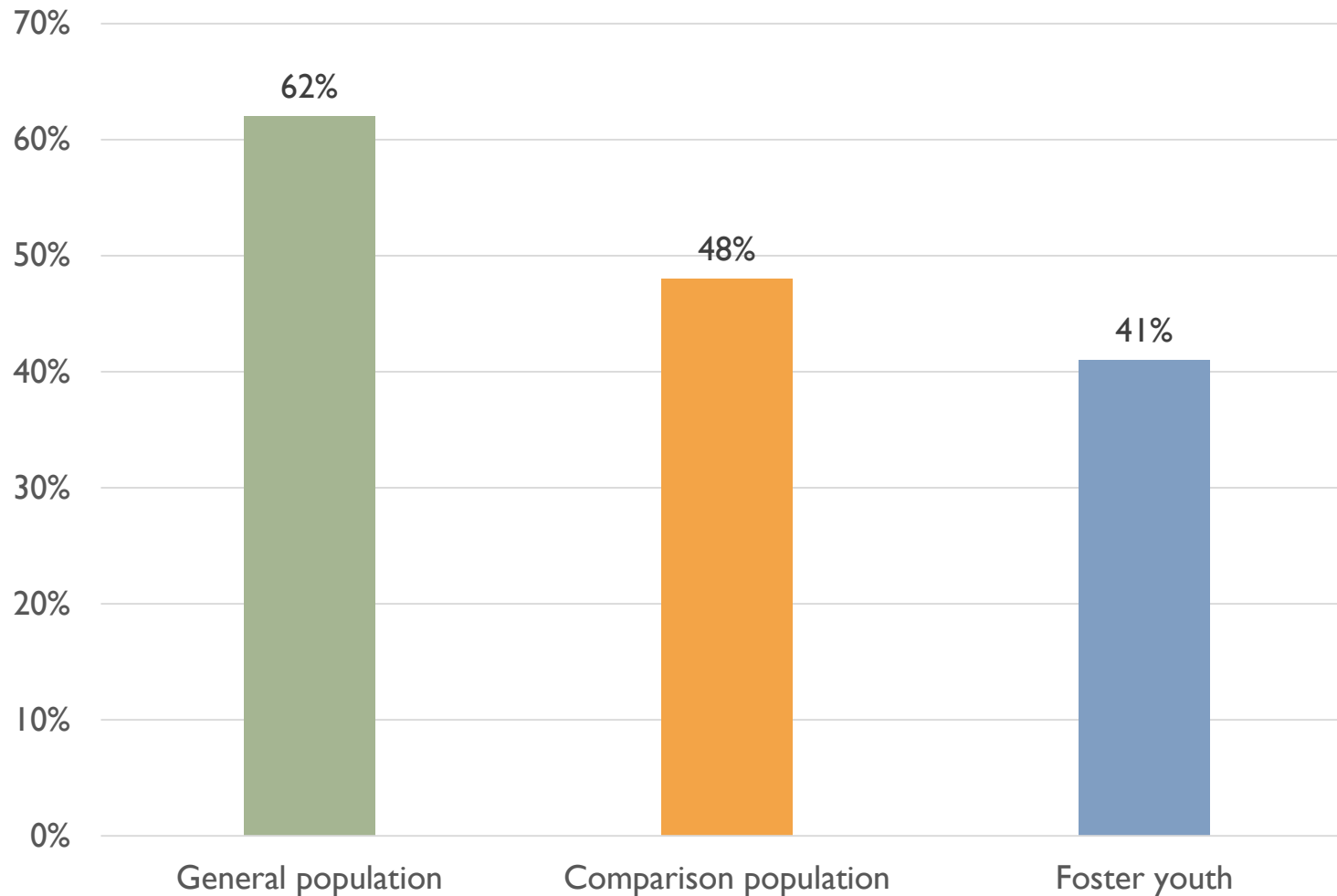
15 percent of children and youth in foster care attend the lowest performing 10 percent of schools in California, as compared to just 10 percent of the general population

# TOGETHER, THESE EXPERIENCES RESULT IN SERIOUS ACADEMIC DELAYS

% of students who scored at each of five proficiency levels at the California Standards Test in English Language Arts



# PERCENTAGE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLEES WHO PERSISTED AT LEAST ONE YEAR

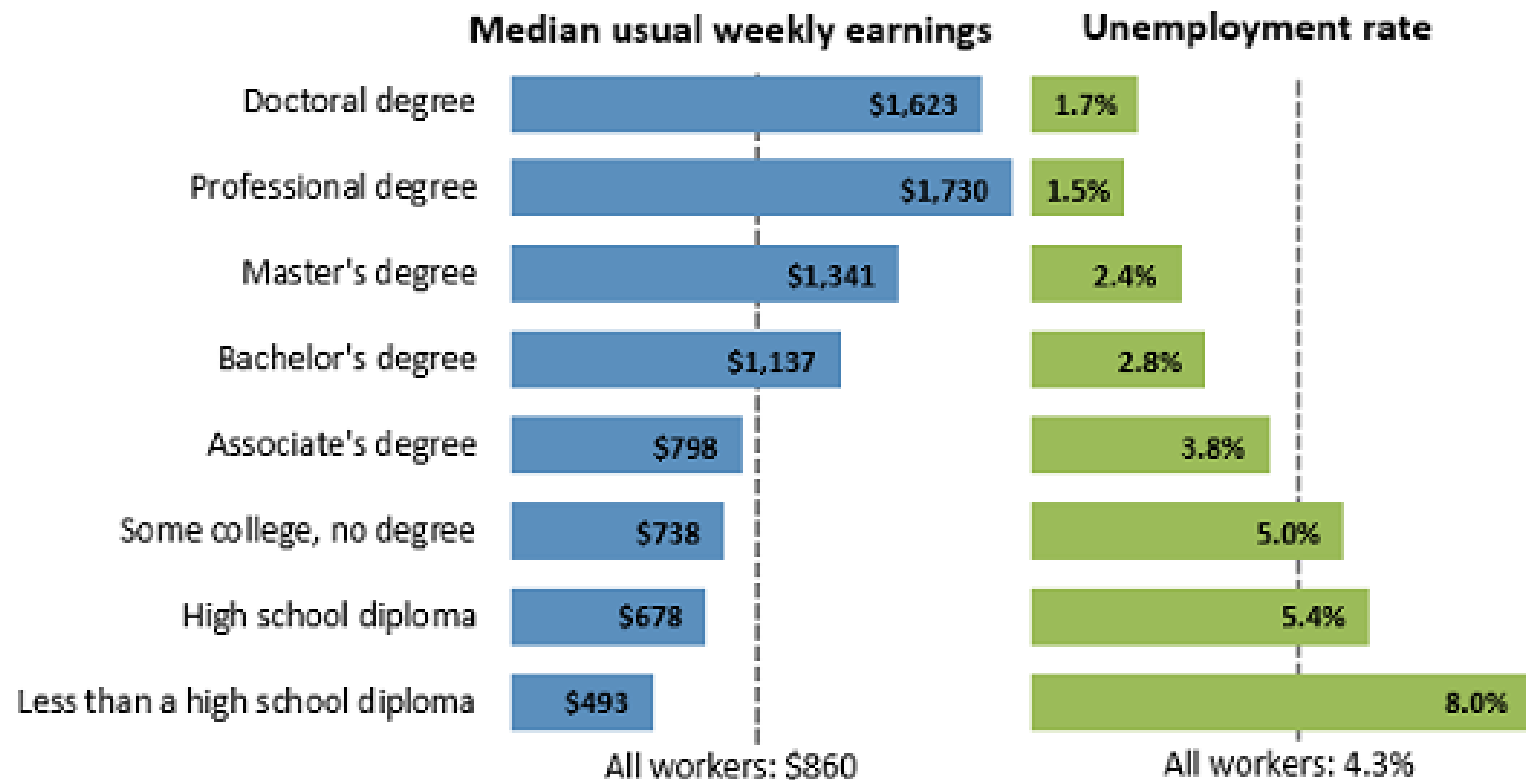


# HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED AT AGE 26

	Former foster youth	Same age comparison group
No high school diploma or GED	20%	6%
High school diploma only	31%	18%
GED only	9%	4%
One or more years of college, but no degree	32%	26%
2-year college degree	4%	10%
4-year college degree	3%	24%
One or more years of graduate school	1%	13%
	<b>8%</b>	<b>47%</b>

# EDUCATION LEVEL HAS LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS

## Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2015

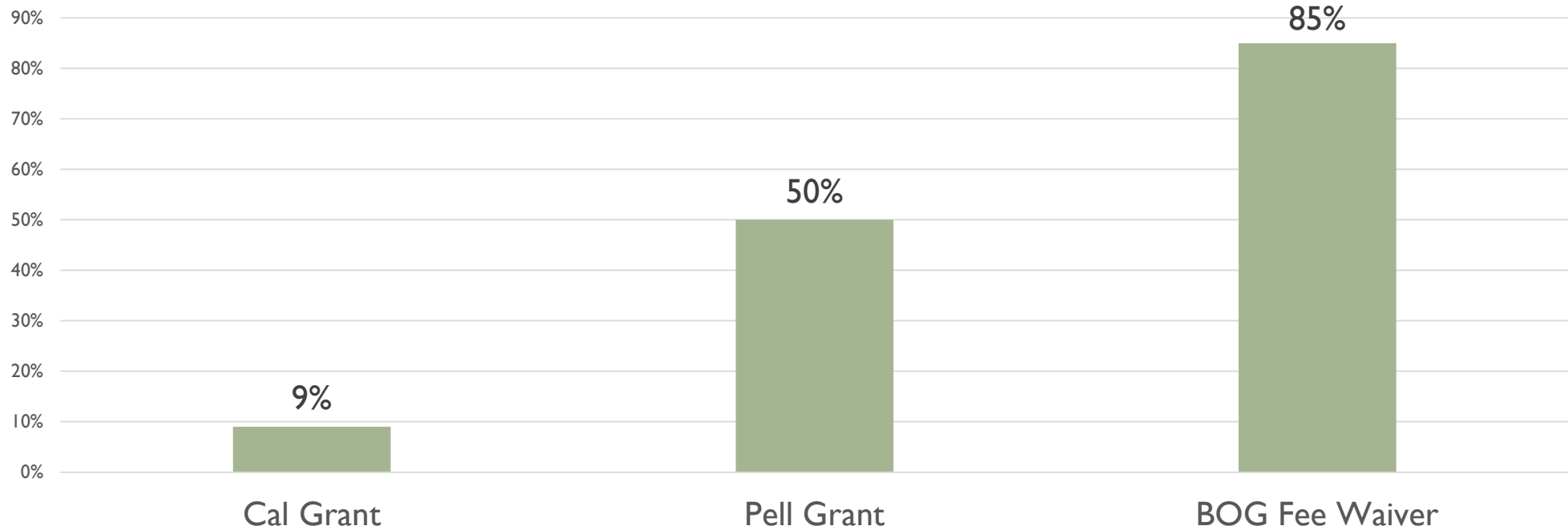


Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey

# A KEY FACTOR IN LOW RATES OF RETENTION AND DEGREE COMPLETION IS THE LOW RATE OF FINANCIAL AID RECEIPT

% of foster youth in CA community colleges who receive this form of financial aid





# WHY IS THE LOW RATE OF PELL RECEIPT AMONG FOSTER YOUTH PROBLEMATIC?

Parental earnings and borrowing is #1 way college is paid for in the U.S.

\$5,814 annually

Foster youth don't have parents to help pay for college

Pell Grant is an entitlement, unlike other sources that run out of funding

Chafee ETV funding is fixed, regardless of demand

Pell is the largest single federal grant program

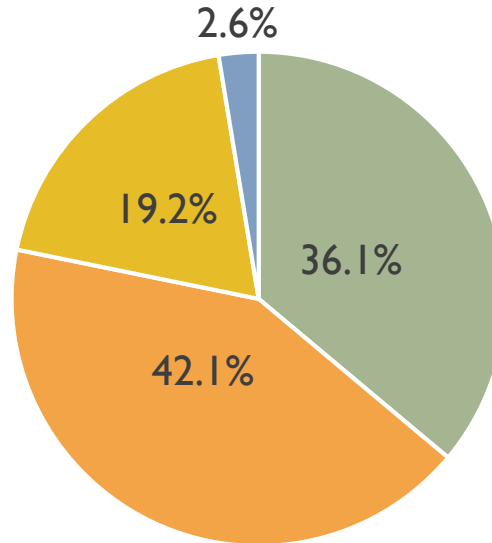
Receipt of financial aid is a predictor of retention and degree completion

\$1,000 in grant aid increases the probability of graduation by 2%

Pell can be used for hundreds of CTE programs

# HOW IMPORTANT IS THE PELL GRANT TO FOSTER YOUTH WHO RECEIVE IT?

How would not receiving the Pell Grant affect your school enrollment?

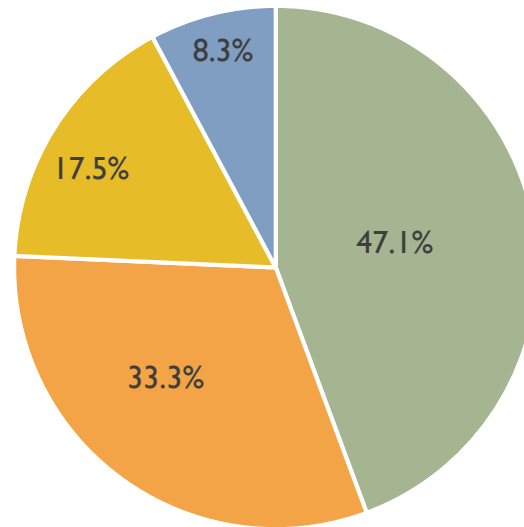


- I would reduce my course load to work more
- I would likely dis-enroll from school
- I would maintain my course load but work more
- It would have no effect

**Source:** January 2017  
Survey of 337 Burton  
Book Fund Recipients

# WHAT HAS IT MEANT TO YOUTH WHO DIDN'T RECEIVE THE PELL GRANT?

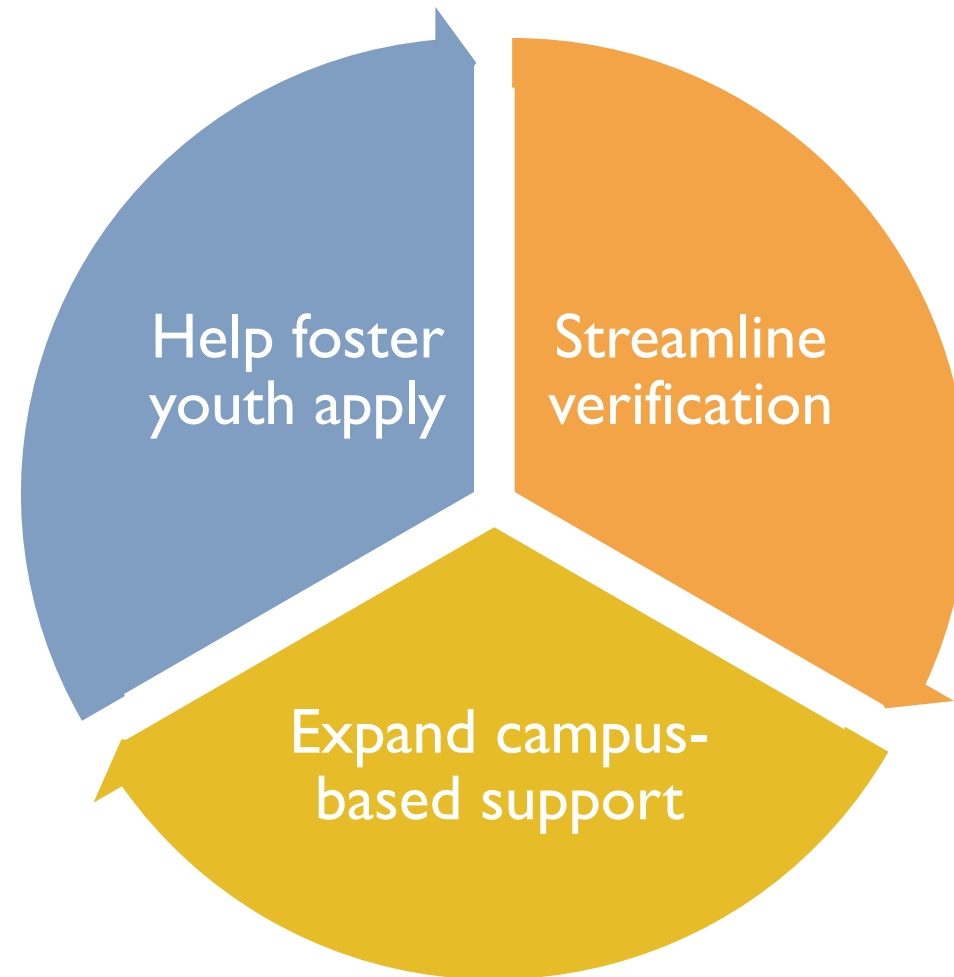
How has not receiving the Pell Grant affected your school enrollment?



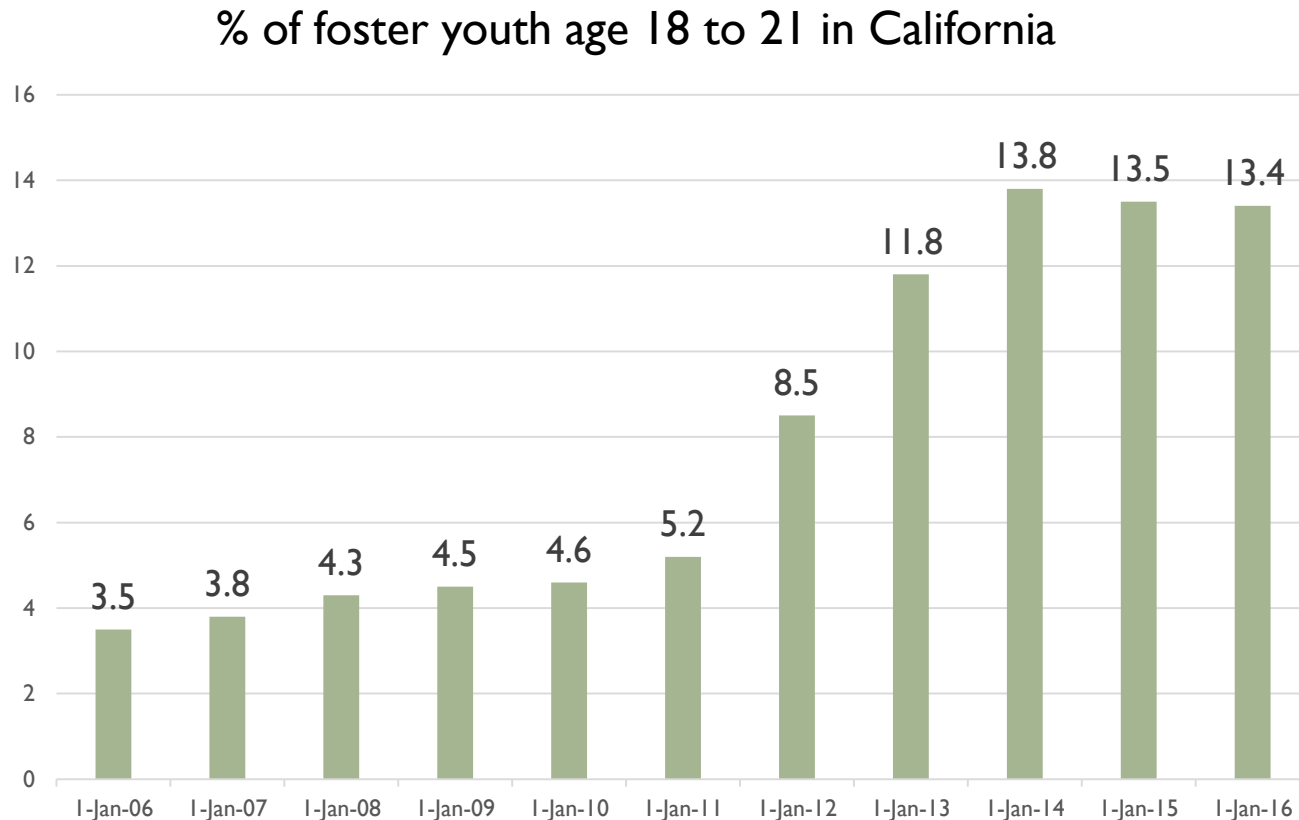
- I maintained my course load but worked more
- I had to reduce my course load to work more
- It had no effect
- I had to dis-enroll from school

Source: January 2017  
Survey of 337 Burton  
Book Fund Recipients

# GOAL OF SB 12 (BEALL): INCREASE RATE OF PELL RECEIPT AMONG FOSTER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE



# PROVISION 1: CONCERN ABOUT COLLEGE SUCCESS HAS GROWN WITH THE INCREASE IN OLDER FOSTER YOUTH



1 in 4 youth in foster care in California is aged 16 and older

1 in 7 youth in foster care in California is college-aged

# PROVISION 1: HELP FOSTER YOUTH APPLY FOR COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID

***Who is supposed to help me apply for college and financial aid?***

My high school guidance counselor?

My educational rights holder?

My Caregiver?

My CASA?



My social worker?

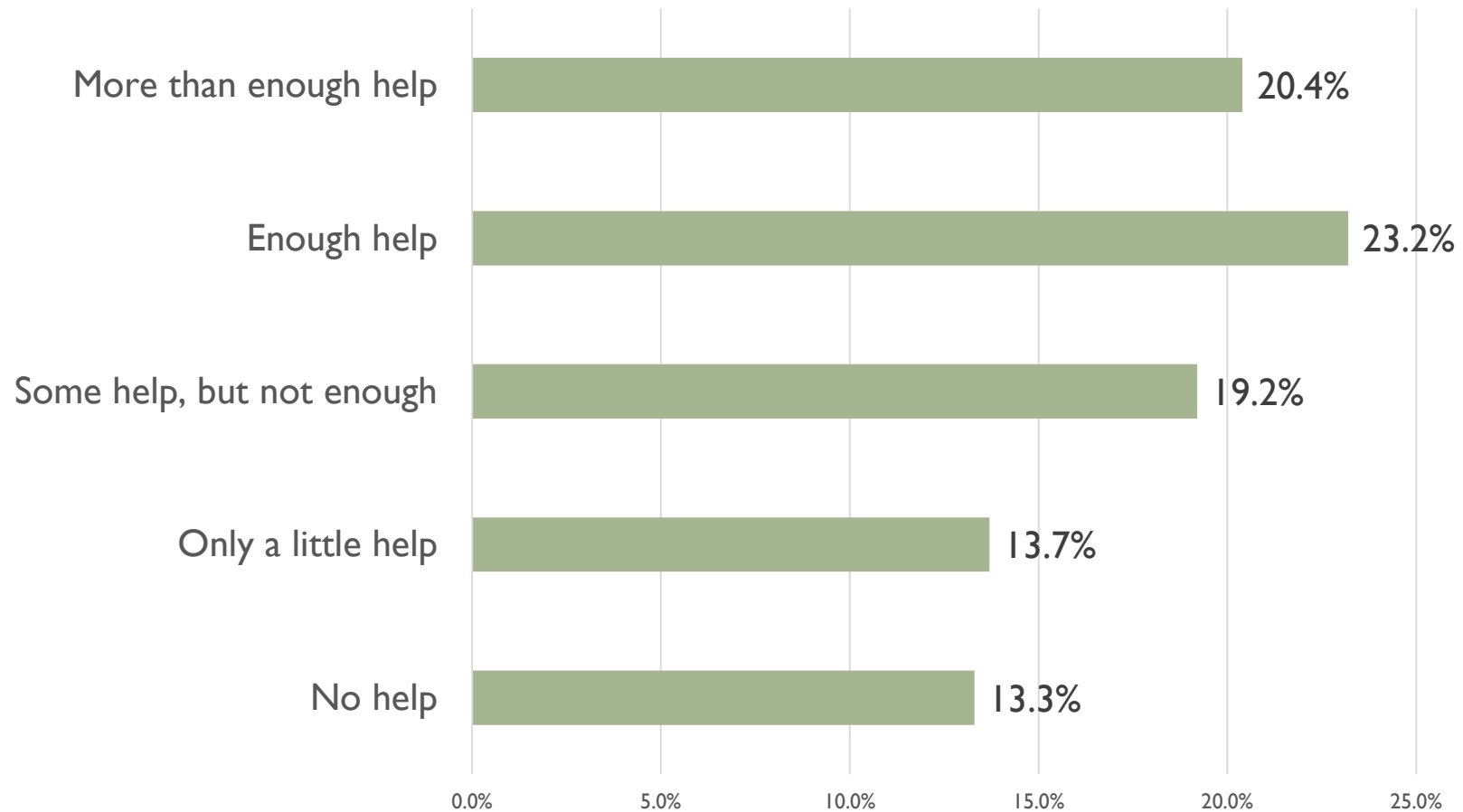
The county office of education?

My attorney?

My mom or dad?

The Independent Living Skills Program?

# PROVISION 1: FOSTER YOUTH REPORT THAT THEY ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH ASSISTANCE WITH COLLEGE PLANNING



## PROVISION 1: HOW WOULD SB 12 SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

- Require a person to be identified in the case plan to assist the foster youth in the college and financial aid application process
- SB 12 doesn't expect all social workers to become experts on financial aid, but rather:
  - Identify the person to assist the youth
  - Ensure youth receives the help they require



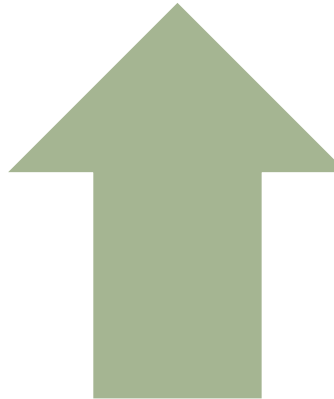


## PROVISION 2: STREAMLINE THE FINANCIAL AID VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH



At most colleges foster youth must submit proof of their dependency status, to verify that they are independent students and not required to report their parents' income.

Foster youth frequently lose access to the Pell at this stage in the process.



# PROVISION 2: CURRENT SYSTEM PUTS THE BURDEN ON THOUSANDS OF FOSTER YOUTH ANNUALLY

What if I can't get this paper by the time classes starts?

Who was my attorney?

Who was my last social worker?

What was my attorney's number?

Will getting this verification cost me money?

Does my foster mom have this paper?

What is my social worker's number?

I asked for it, but I still haven't received it. What do I do now?

Should I contact ILP about this?



They told me I should call the foster care ombudsman's office.  
What's that?

## PROVISION 2: WASN'T AB 592 SUPPOSED TO SOLVE THIS?

- AB 592 (Stone) authorized Foster Care Ombudsman's Office to provide foster youth with verification of their dependency or wardship status.
- Since February 2016, 422 foster youth have been provided this verification.



## PROVISION 2: SB 12 WOULD AUTOMATE THE VERIFICATION PROCESS FOR FOSTER YOUTH



This process has been used successfully for the Chafee Education and Training Voucher

## PROVISION 3: EXPAND ACCESS TO CAFYES

- Established through Senate Bill 1023 (Liu) in 2014; funded in 2015-16 budget
- Community College Chancellor's Office issued funding to 10 districts through a competitive process in 2015
- Established campus support programs on 26 campuses for foster youth within EOPS programs
- \$15 million annual appropriation

# CURRENT CAFYES CAMPUSES



## **San Francisco Bay Area**

- Laney College
- Merritt College
- Berkeley City College
- College of Alameda

## **Santa Barbara County**

- Allan Hancock College

## **Los Angeles Area**

- Pasadena College
- Los Angeles Valley College
- Los Angeles Mission College
- Los Angeles Pierce College
- Los Angeles Trade Tech
- Los Angeles City College
- Los Angeles Southwest College
- Los Angeles Harbor College
- East LA College
- West LA College

## **Northern California**

- Shasta College
- Sierra College
- Santa Rosa Junior College

## **San Diego County**

- Grossmont College
- Cuyamaca College

## **Fresno County**

- Fresno City College
- Reedley College

## **Orange County**

- Golden West College
- Orange Coast College
- Coastline College

# CORE SERVICES OF CAFYES

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Matriculation and transfer counseling
- Monitoring of academic progress
- Tutoring
- Academic mentoring
- Frequent in-person contact
- Allowances for books and supplies



## SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

- Counseling and mental health services
- Independent living skills
- Housing assistance
- Child care allowances
- Transportation allowances
- Career counseling

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CAFYES?

- Person whose dependency in California was established or continued by the court on or after the youth's 16th birthday and who is younger than age 26.
- Age eligibility aligns with other programs for foster youth:
  - Chafee Education and Training Voucher
  - Independent Living Skills Program
  - Priority registration
  - Guardianship benefits to age 21
  - Adoption assistance benefits to age 21.



## WHY DO SO MANY PROGRAMS LINK ELIGIBILITY TO AGE 16?

- Youth in foster care at age 16 much less likely to be reunified, adopted or exited to guardianship than youth in foster care at age 13
- In California:
  - 38% less likely at age 16 than at age 13
  - 79.3% less likely at age 17 than at age 13

# WHAT DOES NOT HAVING A FAMILY MEAN FOR A COLLEGE STUDENT?



## Nowhere to live

- In 2014, 54% of college students chose to live at home to make school more affordable.
- In 2016, living with a parent is the most common young adult living arrangement, with 32% of the 18 to 34 year-olds living with a parent

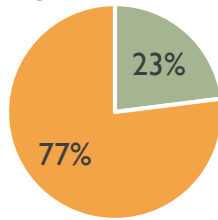


## No one to help pay for college

- In 2016, Parental savings and borrowing paid for 38 percent of the cost of college in the United States.
- This is a greatest single source of funding used by students to pay for college, and exceeds all other sources, including grants, scholarships and student income and student savings
- Holds for low-income students and students attending 2-year colleges

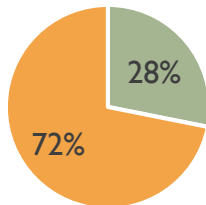
# CAFYES PROGRAMS ARE ABSENT IN AREAS WITH HIGH POPULATIONS OF FOSTER YOUTH

% of Campuses with CAFYES

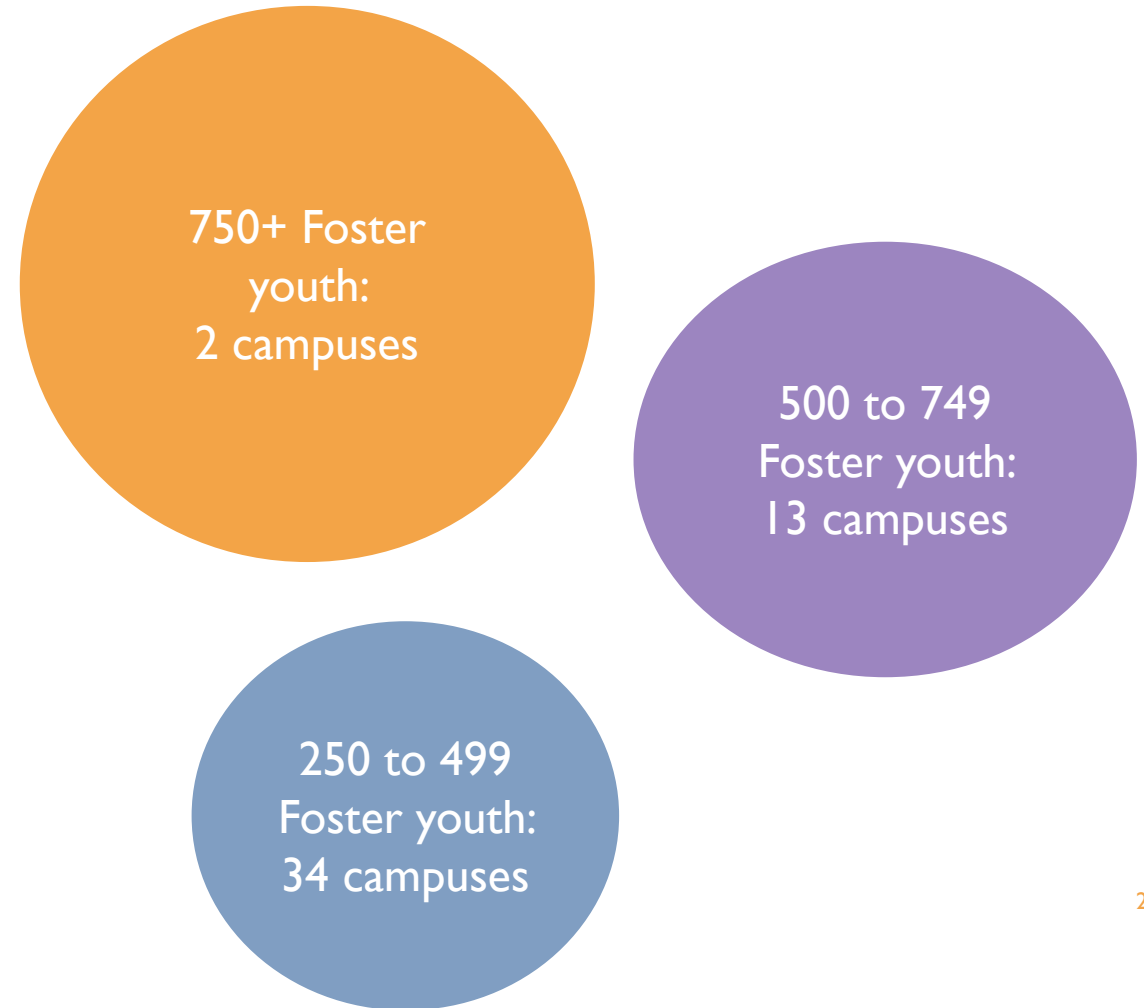


- CAFYES Campus
- Non-CAFYES Campus

% of FY on a Campus with CAFYES



- Access to CAFYES
- No Access to CAFYES



## HOW IS CAFYES DOING AFTER ONE YEAR?

- All 26 campuses have implemented CAFYES
- 1,157 foster youth served in Fall 2016
- CAFYES participants are 46% more likely to receive the Pell Grant

# CAYFYES STUDENT SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2017

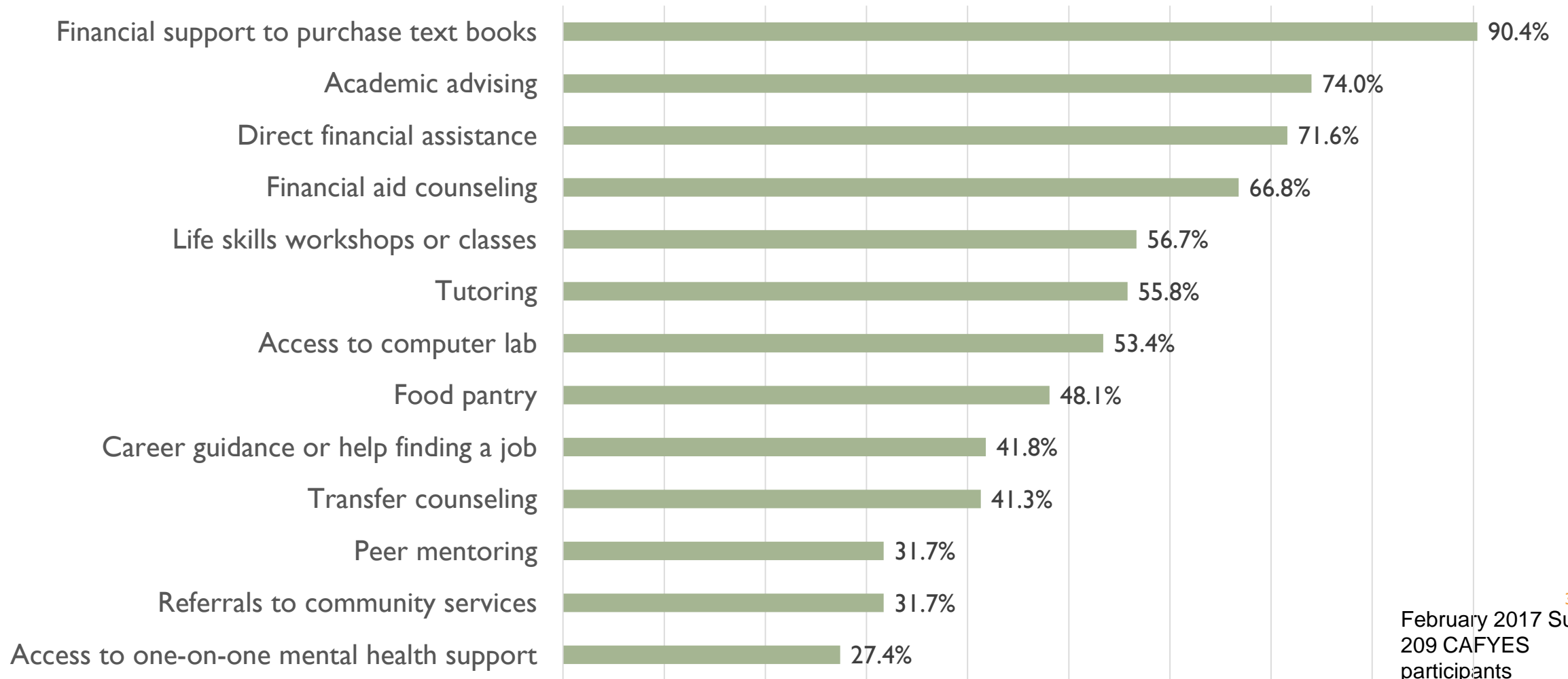
- Survey Respondents: 196
- # of CAFYES programs: 14

Racial/Ethnic Background	%
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin	39.4%
African American or Black	26.4%
White	22.6%
Other	9.6%
Asian	1.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%
Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian	0.5%

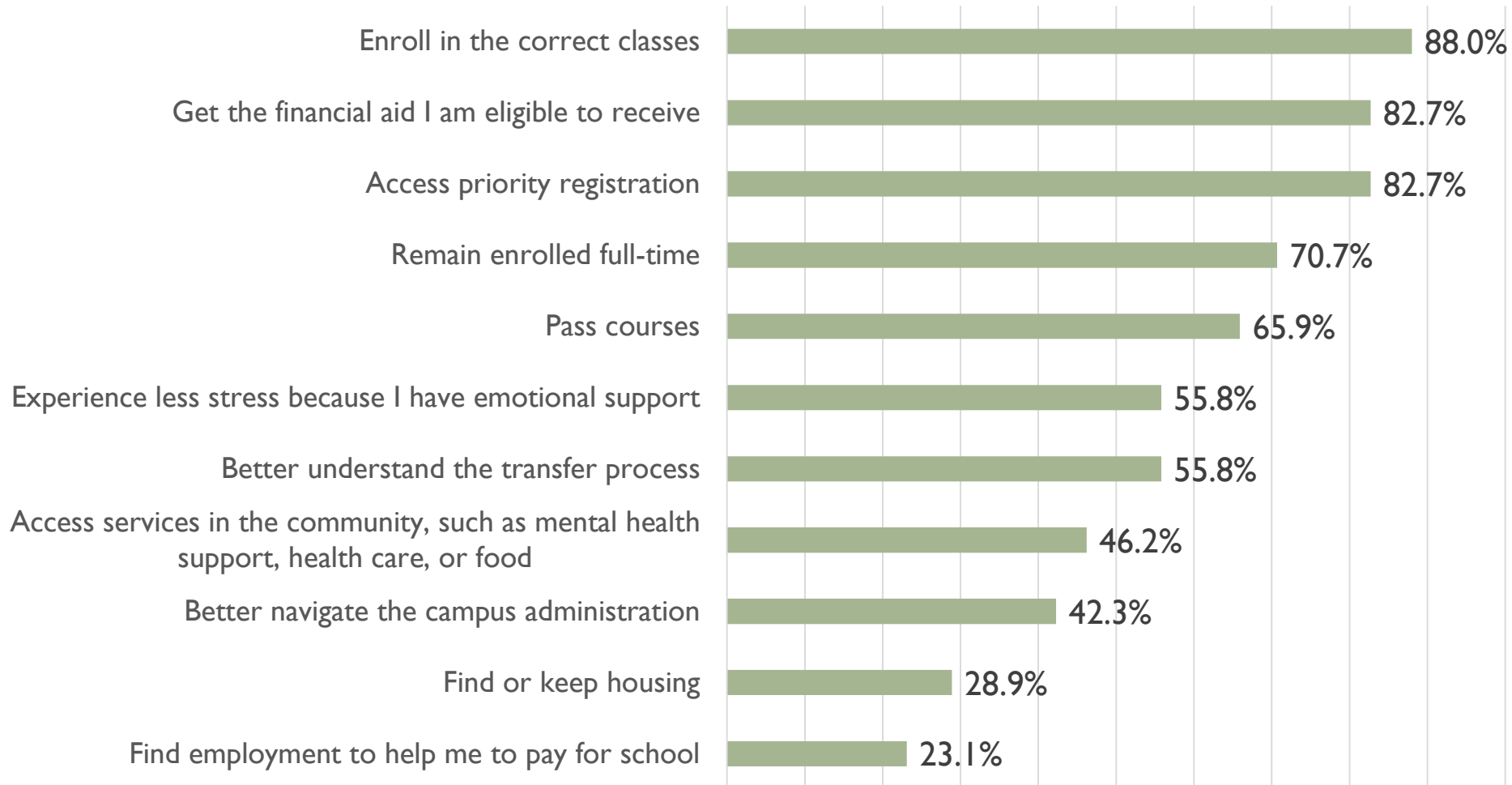
Custodial Parent	%
Yes	23.1%
No	76.9%

Enrollment Status	%
Less than 6 units	6.9%
6 to 8.99 Units	9.4%
9 to 11.99 Units	25.6%
12 and over	58.1%

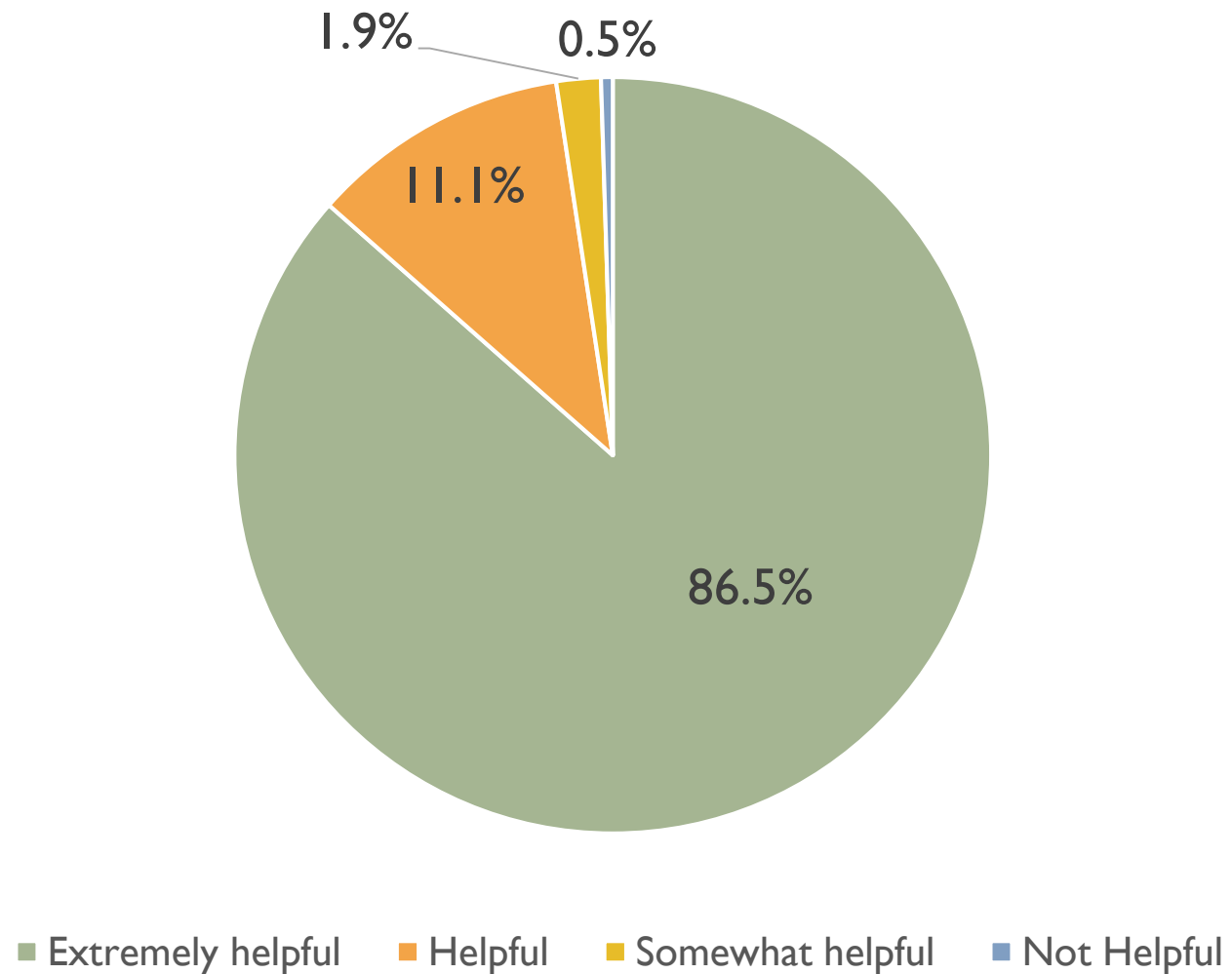
# WHAT CAFYES SERVICES ARE STUDENTS USING?



# WHAT DO STUDENTS REPORT THESE SERVICES ARE HELPING THEM ACHIEVE?



# OVERALL, HOW HELPFUL DO STUDENTS FIND CAFYES?

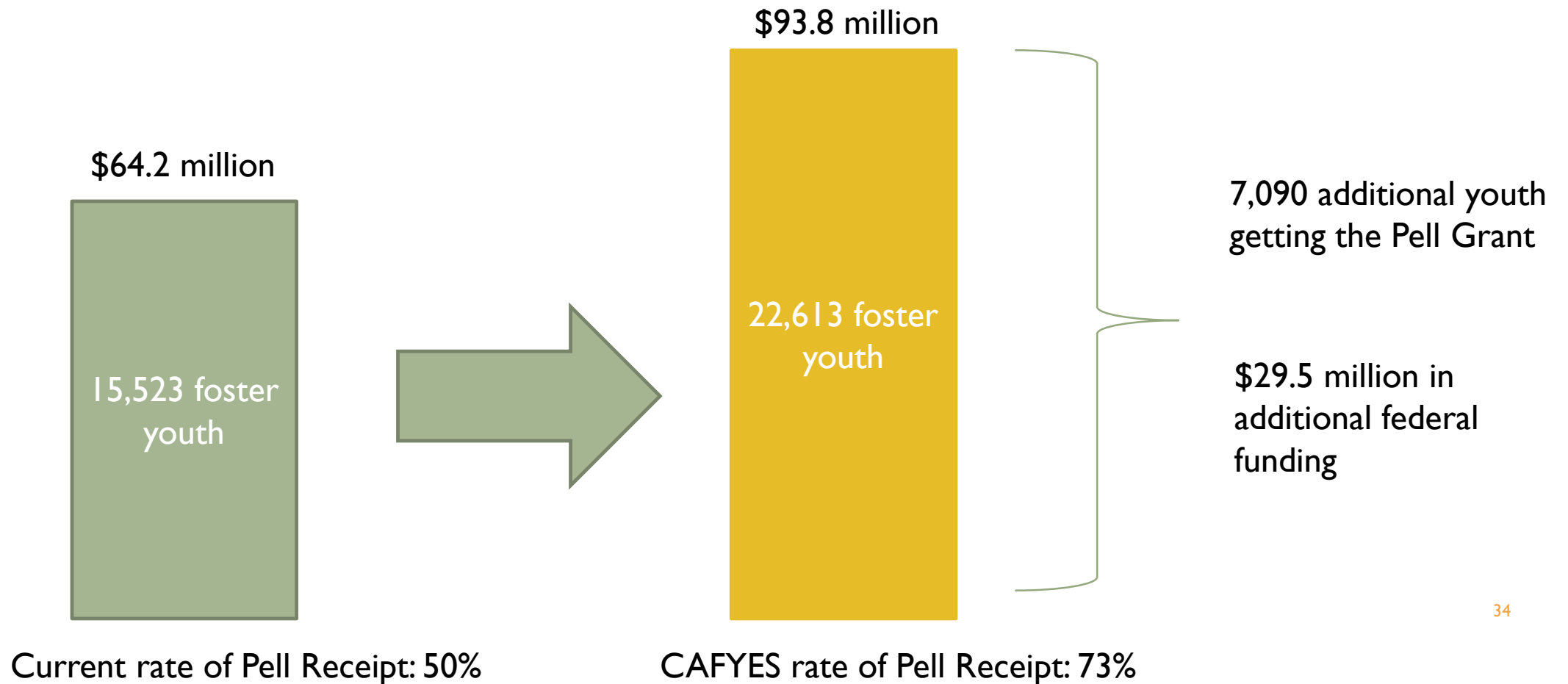




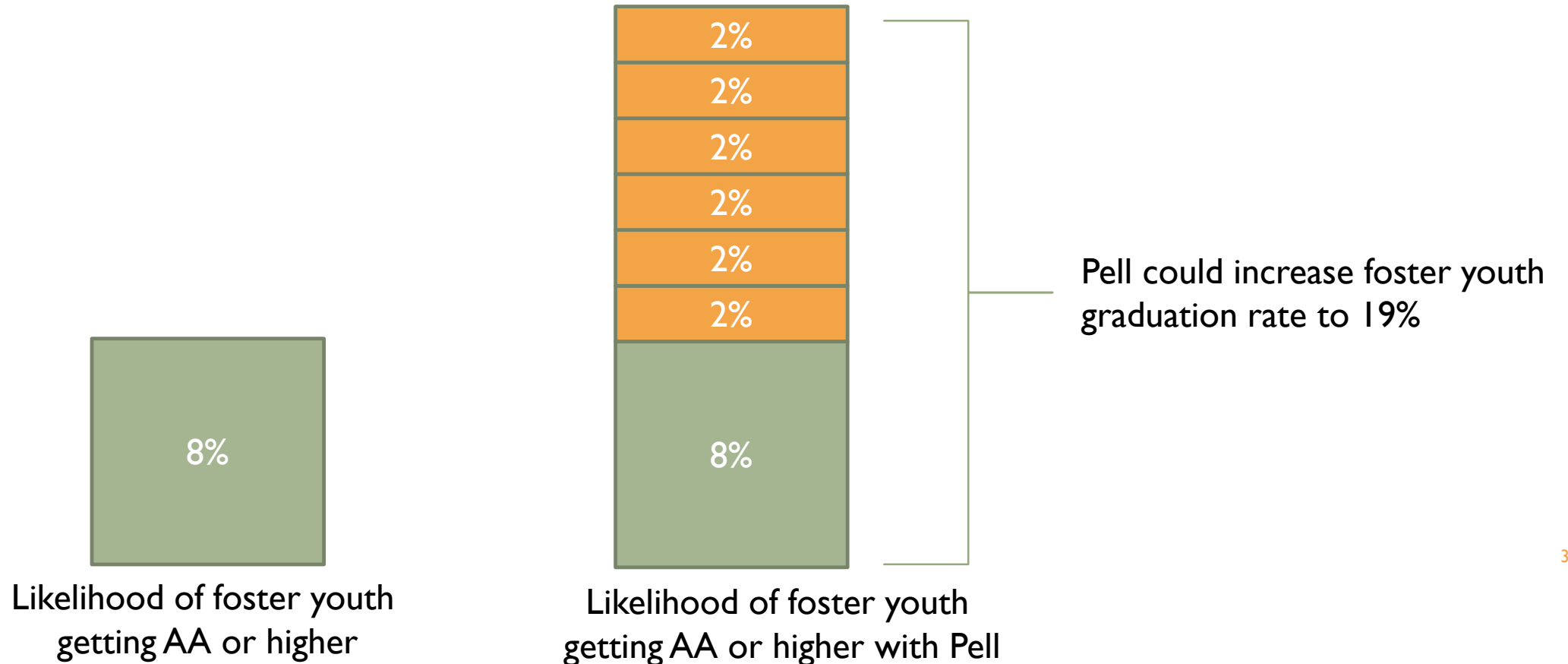
## PROVISION 3: INCREASE NUMBER OF CAFYES-FUNDED DISTRICTS FROM 10 TO 20

- 26 campuses will spend an estimated \$9 million in 2017-18
- Expansion would be funded with the remaining \$6 million
- Campuses would likely be selected through a competitive process

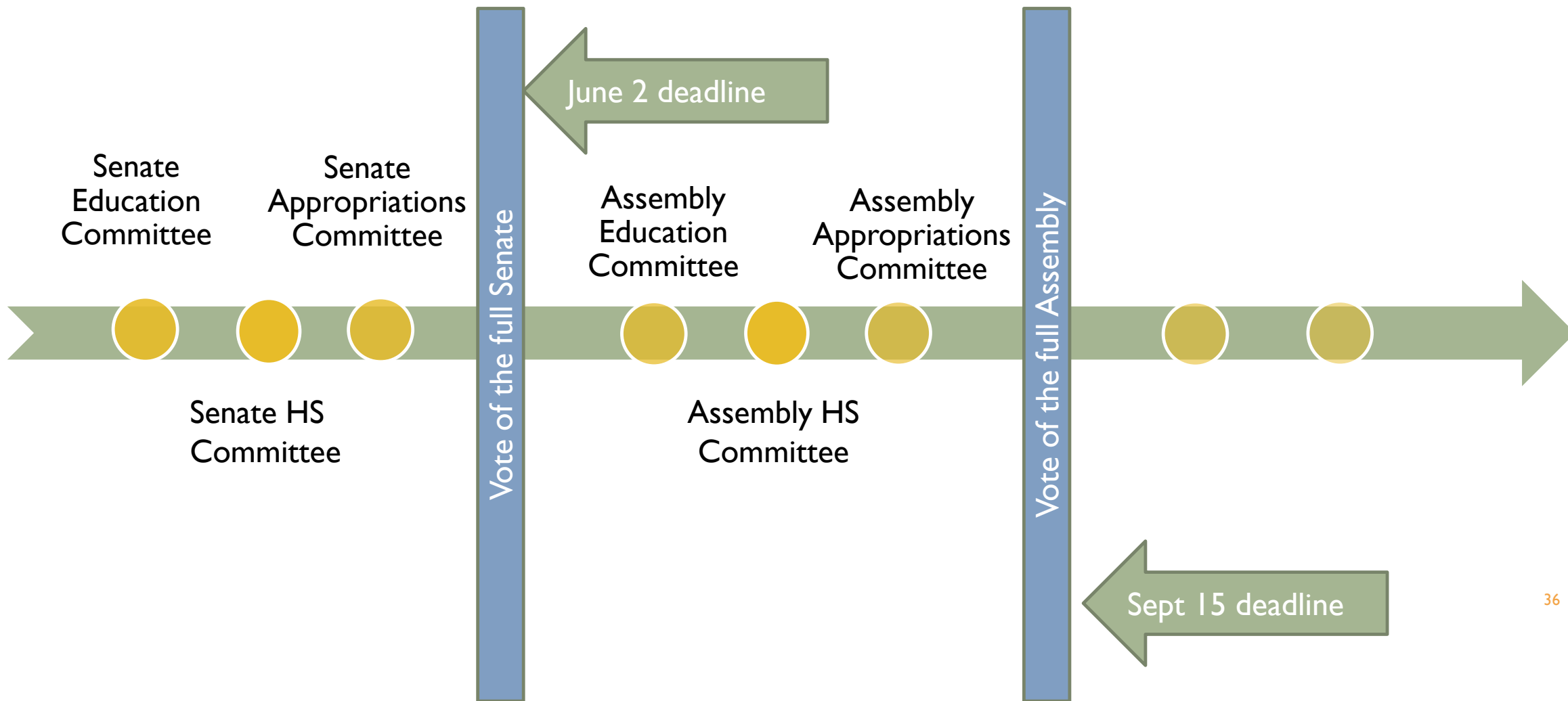
# SB 12 WILL BRING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO CALIFORNIA'S FOSTER YOUTH IN COLLEGE....



# ...AND HELP FOSTER YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR COLLEGE DREAMS



# LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE FOR SB 12



## HOW YOU CAN HELP MAKE SB 12 A REALITY

- Send in a support letter; sample letter on website
- Email it to [luz@jbafor youth.org](mailto:luz@jbafor youth.org)
- Attend and testify at March Senate Education Committee
- Meet with legislators in the district
- Encourage foster youth to get involved!
- Stay tuned for more work over the spring and summer

# SOURCES

- Slide 3: Barrat, V. X., & Berliner, B. (2013). [The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part I: Education Outcomes of Students in Foster Care in California's Public Schools](#). San Francisco: WestEd.
- Slide 4: [At Greater Risk: California Foster Youth and the Path from High School to College, March 2013](#).
- Slide 5: [At Greater Risk: California Foster Youth and the Path from High School to College, March 2013](#).
- Slide 6: [Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth: Outcomes at Age 26](#). (2011)
- Slide 7: [US Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Current Population Survey](#) (2015)
- Slide 8: [Charting the Course: Using Data to Support Foster Youth College Success](#) (2015)
- Slide 9: [How America Pays for College 2016](#), Sallie Mae and Ipsos Public Affairs (2016)
- Slide 9: Alon, The Influence of Financial Aid in Leveling Group Differences in Graduating From Elite Institutions, *Economic of Education*, January 2006.
- Slide 10: [January 2017 Survey of 337 Burton Book Fund Recipients](#)
- Slide 11: [January 2017 Survey of 337 Burton Book Fund Recipients](#)
- Slide 13: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project [website](#)
- Slide 15: Courtney et al., [Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study: Conditions at Age 19](#) (2016).
- Slide 17: [After the FAFSA: How Red Tape Can Prevent Eligible Students From Receiving Financial Aid](#), July 2010. The Institute for College Access and Success.
- Slide 19: January 2017 personal communication with the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsman

# SOURCES

- Slide 25: University of California at Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators Project website
- Slide 26: Richard Frey. [\*For First Time in Modern Era, Living With Parents Edges Out Other Living Arrangements for 18- to 34-Year-Olds\*](#). Pew Research Center (2016)
- Slide 26: [How America Pays for College 2015](#), pages 15 and 16.
- Slide 27 to 32: [CAFYES: What Do We Know After One Year?](#) John Burton Advocates for Youth, February 2017.
- Slide 35: Alon, The Influence of Financial Aid in Leveling Group Differences in Graduating From Elite Institutions, Economic of Education, January 2006.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

To submit live questions, click on the “Questions” panel,  
type your question, and click “Send”

or contact

Amy Lemley, John Burton Advocates for Youth

Debbie Raucher, John Burton Advocates for Youth