

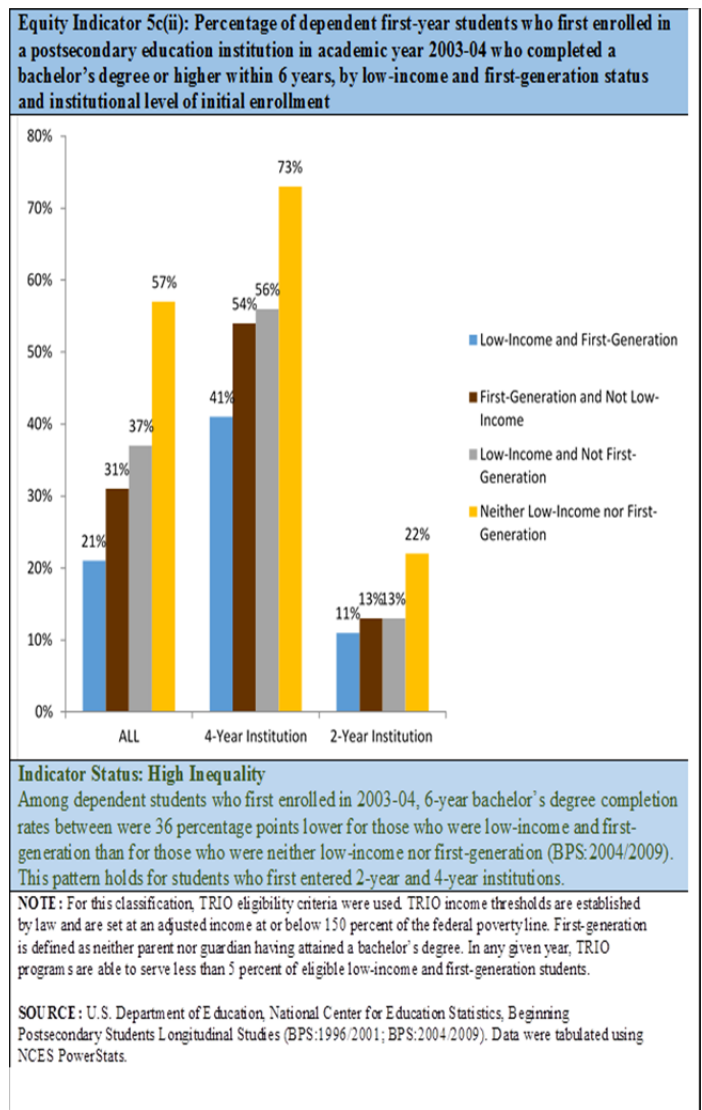
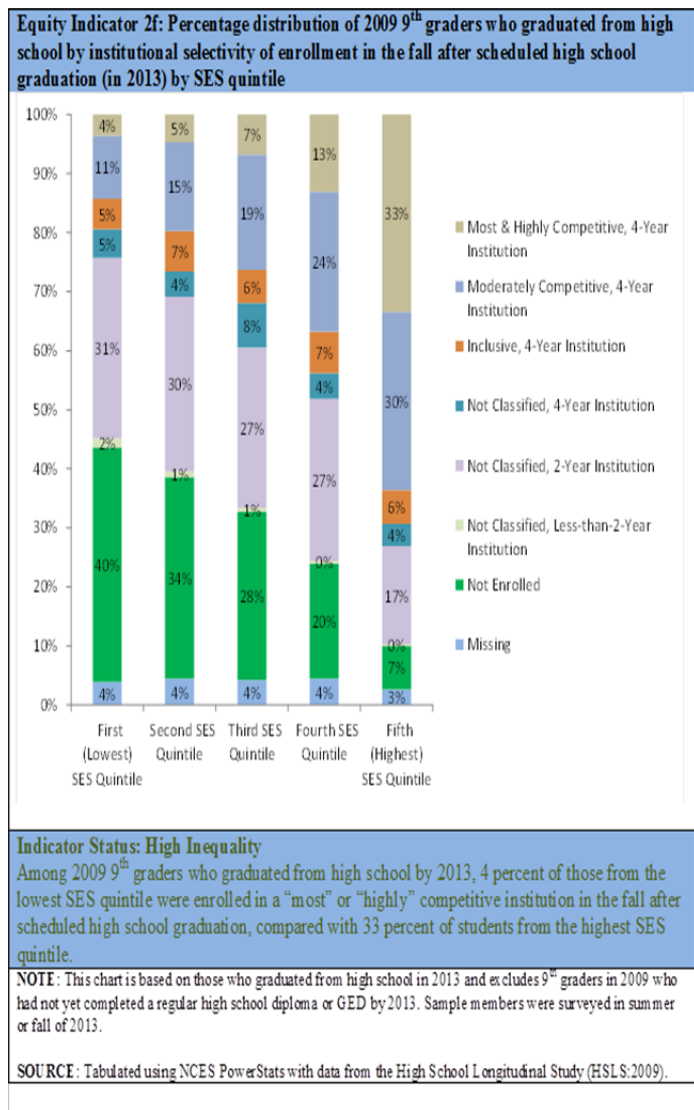
2019 Search for Solutions-Shared Dialogues

Issue #1: How Can We Best Address Rising Stratification?

Background

The Indicators report documents a highly-stratified U.S. higher education system.

Among 2009 9th graders who graduated from high school in 2013, those from the highest socioeconomic (SES) quintiles were 8 times as likely to attend a “most” or “highly” selective college as students from the lower SES quintile (33% versus 4%) (Indicator 2). 81% of young people in the highest income quintile who were enrolled in college attended 4-year institutions with only 45% of young people enrolled in college from the bottom income quintile enrolled in 4-year institutions. Students who enrolled in 4-year institutions were more likely to graduate.



Policy Proposals Addressing Stratification

Proposals addressing stratification fall into two categories: 1) those that seek to bring greater resources to under-resourced institutions where the highest numbers of low-income students are enrolled; and 2) those that seek to enable more low-income students to enroll at more highly resourced institutions.

Please discuss the following possible Policy Proposals (and feel free to add additional approaches) as well as the questions under each proposal.

- Do you view a version of such a proposal as a sound approach to the problem?
- What would be important variables to consider in crafting such a proposal?
- Do you think sufficient resources could be identified to implement such a proposal? Would those resources most likely be federal, state, or local?
- What obstacles do you see in implementing such a policy?
- What obstacles do you see to securing support for such a policy?
- Are there possible unintended consequences of implementing such a policy?

Increase Resources to the Least Resourced Institutions That Enroll A Significant Number of Pell Recipients

In a recent report entitled “How Can State Policymakers Provide Community Colleges with the Resources They Need?”, The Century Foundation argued for the establishment of federal-state partnerships to invest in community colleges. To what extent should a federal-state partnership investing in under-resourced institutions be considered an important element of the problem’s solution?

Increase Slots at Selective Institutions and at Other Four Year Colleges

Catharine Bond Hill in this year’s Robert H. Atwell Lecture of the American Council on Education argued for significantly increasing openings available at these colleges. Should state systems be encouraged to increase availability, particularly at their most selective institutions? If publicly funded institutions increase openings for low-income students, what policy approaches could be put in place to ensure that these positions are available to students currently under-represented at these institutions?

Change the Admissions Process at Selective Institution to Require Admission Lottery

Some argue that the credibility of higher education has been so undercut that a more radical solution to ensuring equity is necessary. Some suggest that each institution that is non-open enrollment should establish the competencies levels (perhaps tests scores and GPA) that it believes are necessary to gain admission and that admissions be done by lottery. Only individuals who establish competency to compete at the institution would be eligible for the lottery.