



Transfers and the Class of 2002

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Overview of the Presentation

- **Introduction to the longitudinal study of the Class of 2002**
- **Who is going to college, and where do they go?**
- **Transfer and completion status of community college students**
- **Reverse transfers**
- **Implications for policy and practice**



The Study

- **All 113,660 public high school students in the Illinois Class of 2002.**
- **Enrollments in institutions of higher education, public and private, in state and out of state, from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) each year.**
- **Certificates and degrees from ICCB and NSC.**
- **Following the Class for six years. Reporting today on third year results (through 2004-2005), with some fourth year enrollment updates (through 2005-2006).**



The Structure of the Illinois College Readiness Index

	Self-Reported High School GPA				
	<=2.4	2.5-2.9	3.0-3.4	3.5-4.0	Missing
ACT < 20	20%	8%	7%	2%	15%
20-22	3%	4%	5%	3%	4%
23-25	1%	2%	4%	5%	3%
26+	0%	1%	3%	10%	3%



IERC College Readiness Index

Percentage Expecting
Bachelor's Degree
or More

Distribution of the Class of 2002

Not/Least Ready	34%		72%
Minimally Ready	11%	}	84%
Somewhat Ready	17%		90%
More Ready	17%	}	96%
Most Ready	20%		99%

- Roughly a third of the Class of 2002 are not/least ready for college, about a third are partially ready, and about a third are college ready.*
- Majority expect to earn a bachelor's degree.*



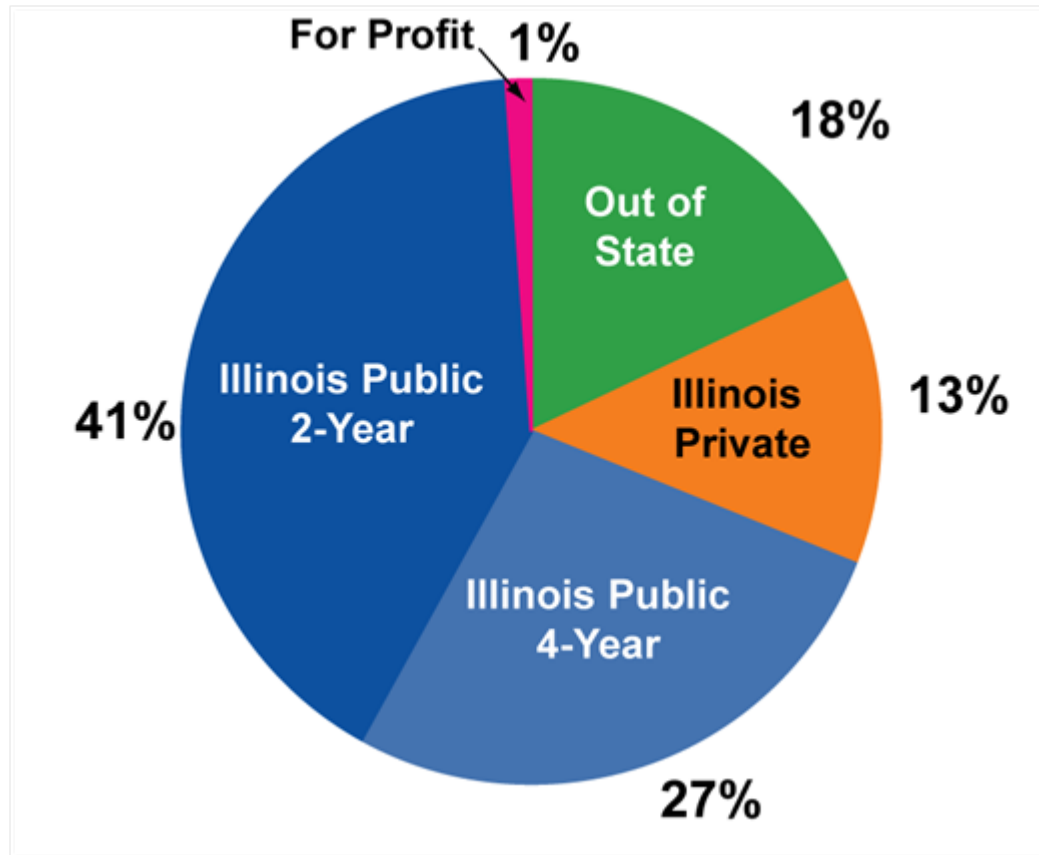
Participation Status of the Class of 2002 by the 3rd Year [4th year update] After High School Graduation, by College Readiness (%)

College Readiness	Enrolled All Three [Four] Years	Not Enrolled Any Time	N
Not/Least Ready	24 [17]	45 [43]	39,015
Minimally Ready	37 [29]	30 [28]	12,569
Somewhat Ready	52 [44]	22 [20]	19,691
More Ready	66 [60]	13 [11]	19,879
Most Ready	78 [73]	9 [8]	22,506
Total	48 [42]	27 [25]	113,660

- **About one in four students overall and one in twelve most-ready students have never enrolled in college by the fourth year after high school graduation.**



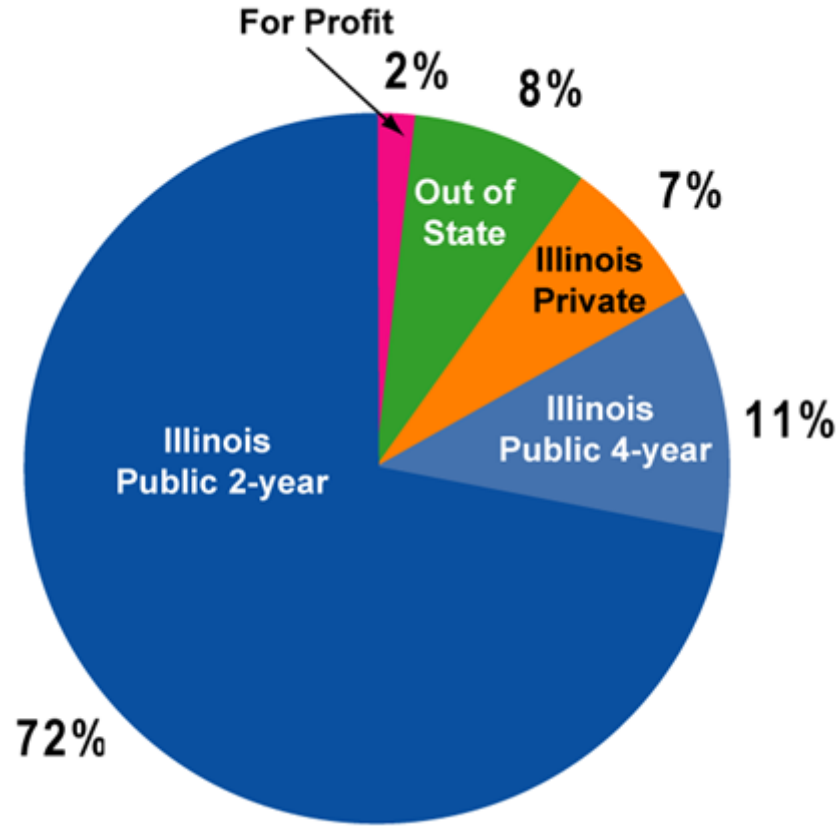
First College Type of All 2002-2003 Starters



- *Two in five starters begin in an Illinois community college*



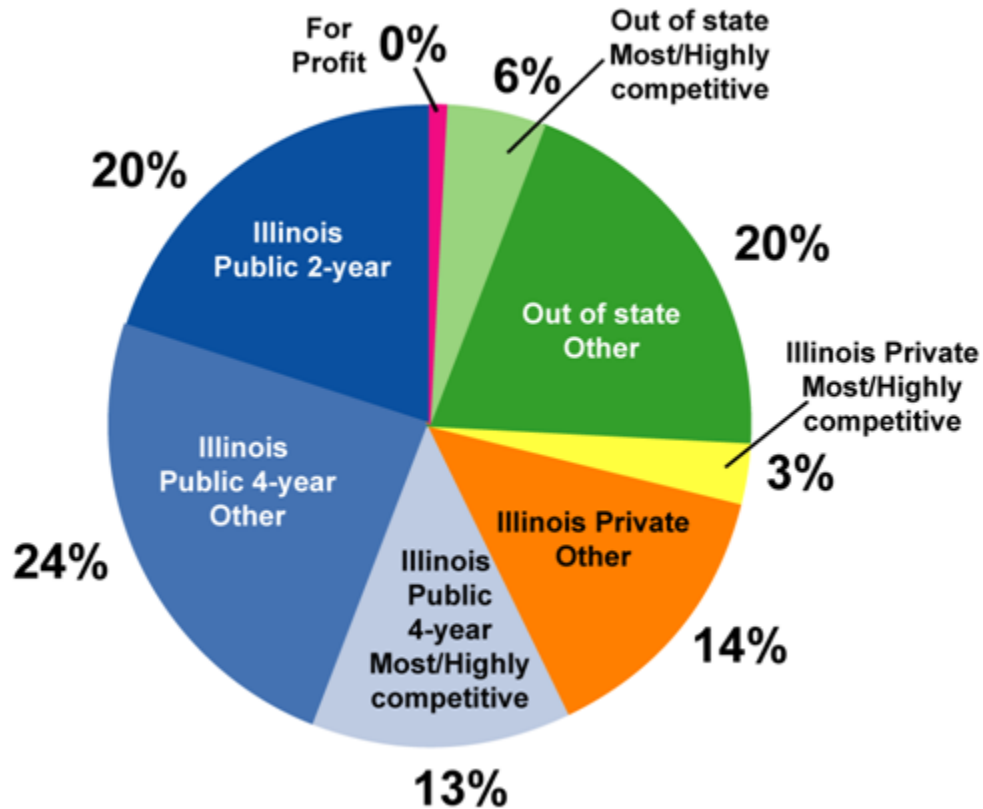
First College Type of Not/Least-Ready Students



- ***Overall, 2-year institutions provide access to postsecondary education for almost three quarters of not/least-ready college-goers.***
- ***The pattern for CPS students was different, with half enrolling at the 2-year level, and one quarter enrolling in Illinois public 4-year institutions.***



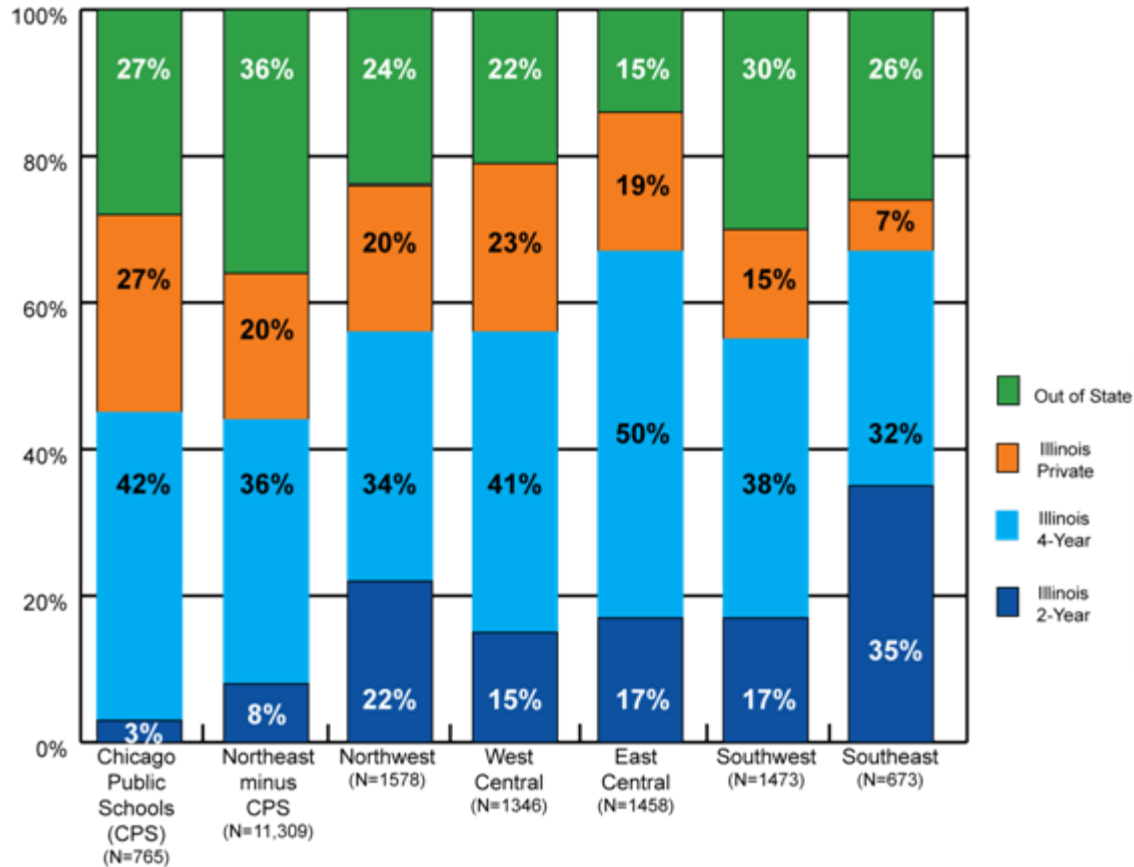
First College Type of More/Most-Ready Students



- *There are many college-ready students starting in the two-year sector who need support to seek transfer to a four-year institution.*
 - *Remember that almost all college-ready students now expect to complete a bachelor's degree.*



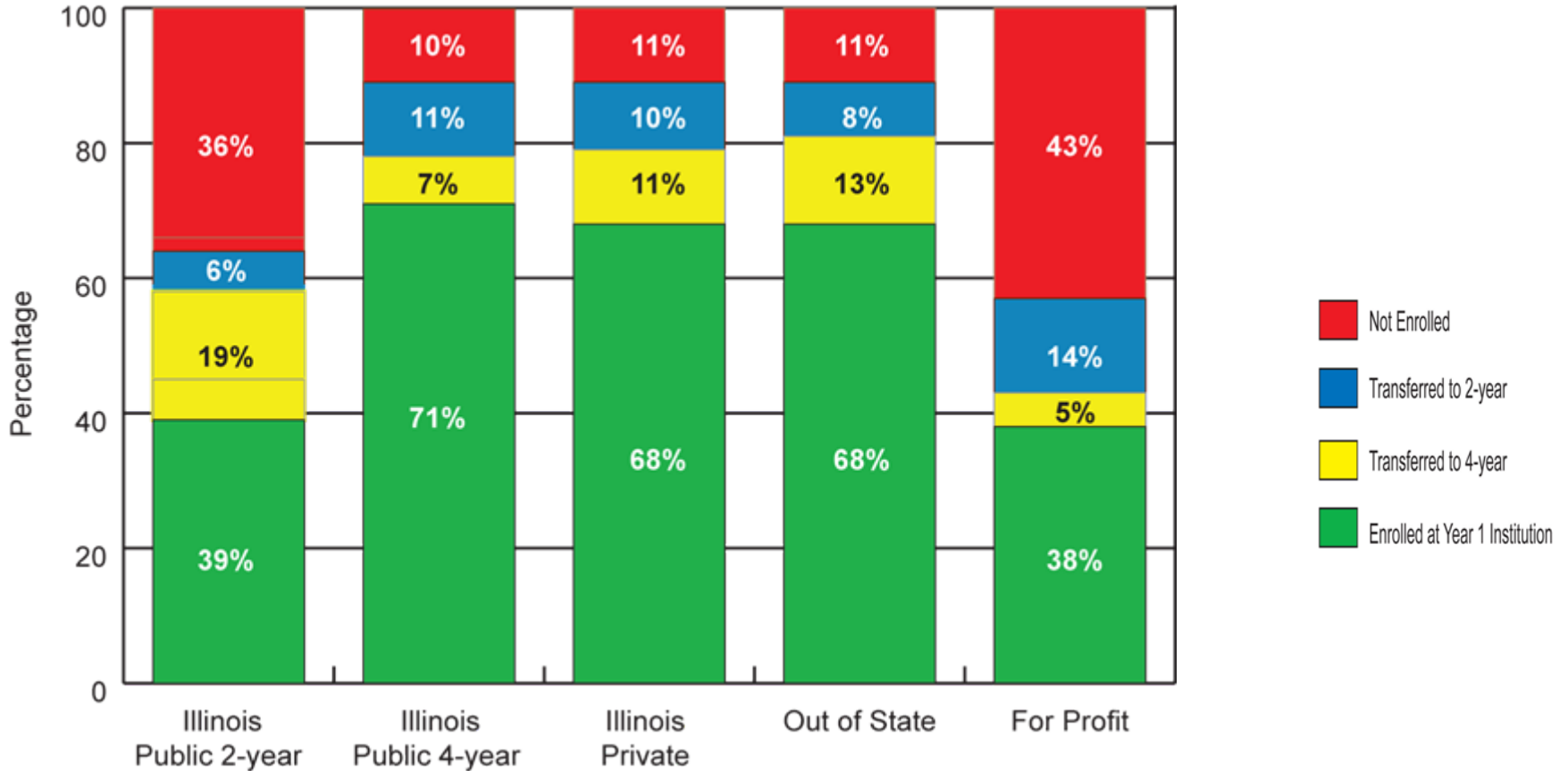
College-Choice Patterns of Most-Ready Students by High School Region



- **Starting institution is influenced by which colleges are located locally.**
- **Two year institutions provide a fertile field for recruiting college-ready 4-year transfers.**



Third Year Status (AY 2004-2005) of Those Who Went to College in AY 2002-2003



- About 10% of 4-year starters have transferred to a 2-year institution
- One in five 2-year starters have transferred to a 4-year institution



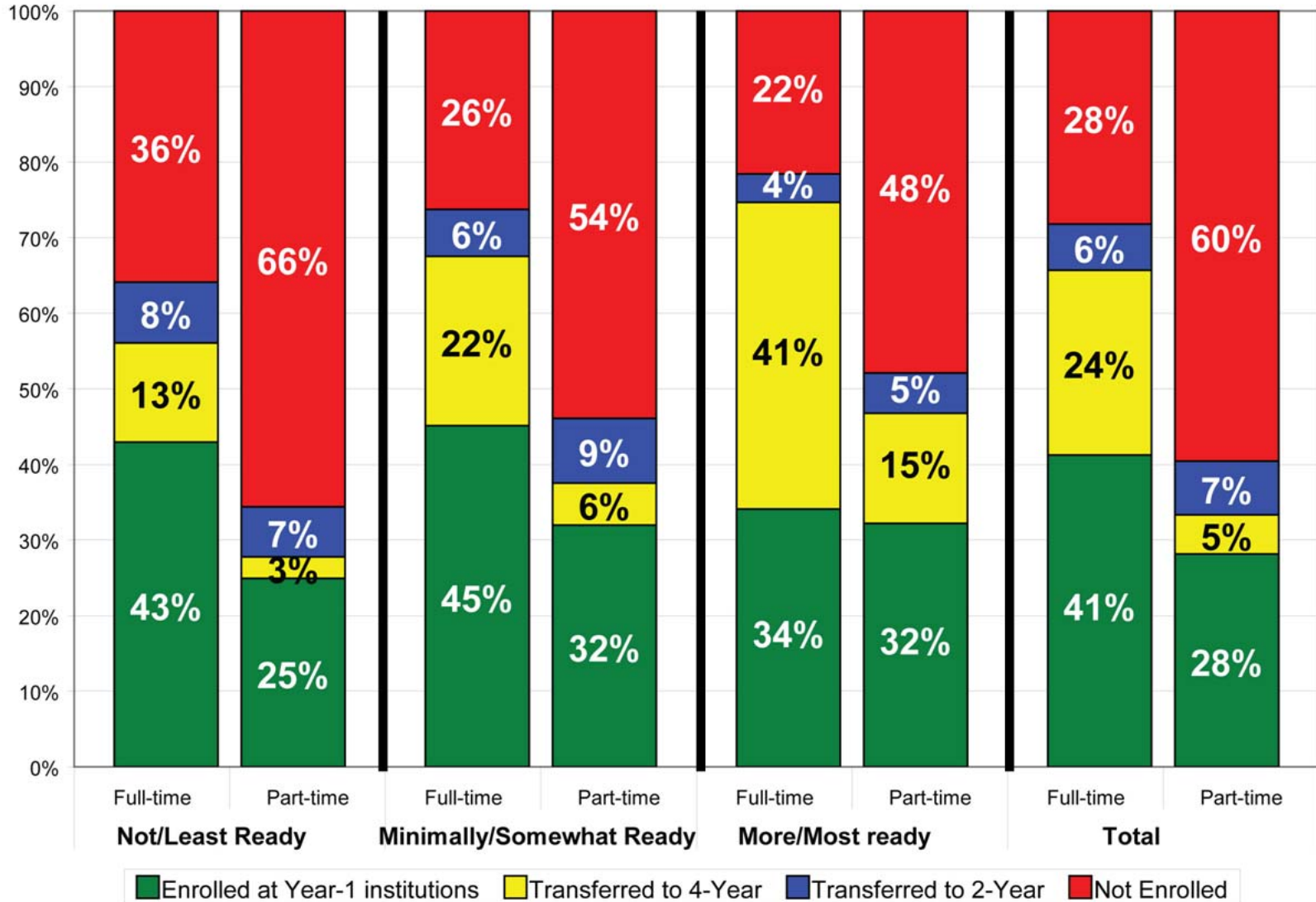
Third Year Enrollment and Completion Status of Illinois Public Two-Year College Starters

	Enrolled at Year 1 Institution		Not Enrolled		Transferred to 2-Year Institution		Transferred to 4-Year Institution		N
	Without Degree or Certificate	With Degree or Certificate**	Without Degree or Certificate	With Degree or Certificate	Without Degree or Certificate	With Degree or Certificate	Without Degree or Certificate	With Degree or Certificate	
Not/Least Ready	34%	4%	45%	2%	6%	<0.5%	7%	2%	11,798
Minimally Ready	34%	7%	36%	2%	6%	<0.5%	10%	4%	4,529
Somewhat Ready	35%	9%	27%	2%	5%	1%	15%	6%	6,391
More Ready	28%	11%	23%	3%	3%	1%	19%	12%	4,730
Most Ready	21%	10%	16%	3%	2%	1%	27%	20%	2,287
Total	32%	7%	34%	2%	5%	1%	13%	6%	29,735*

- Overall 16% (7% + 2% + 1% + 6%) of two-year starters have completed some program by the end of the third year.
- Leavers are not completing any type of program
- It's the college-ready students who are transferring

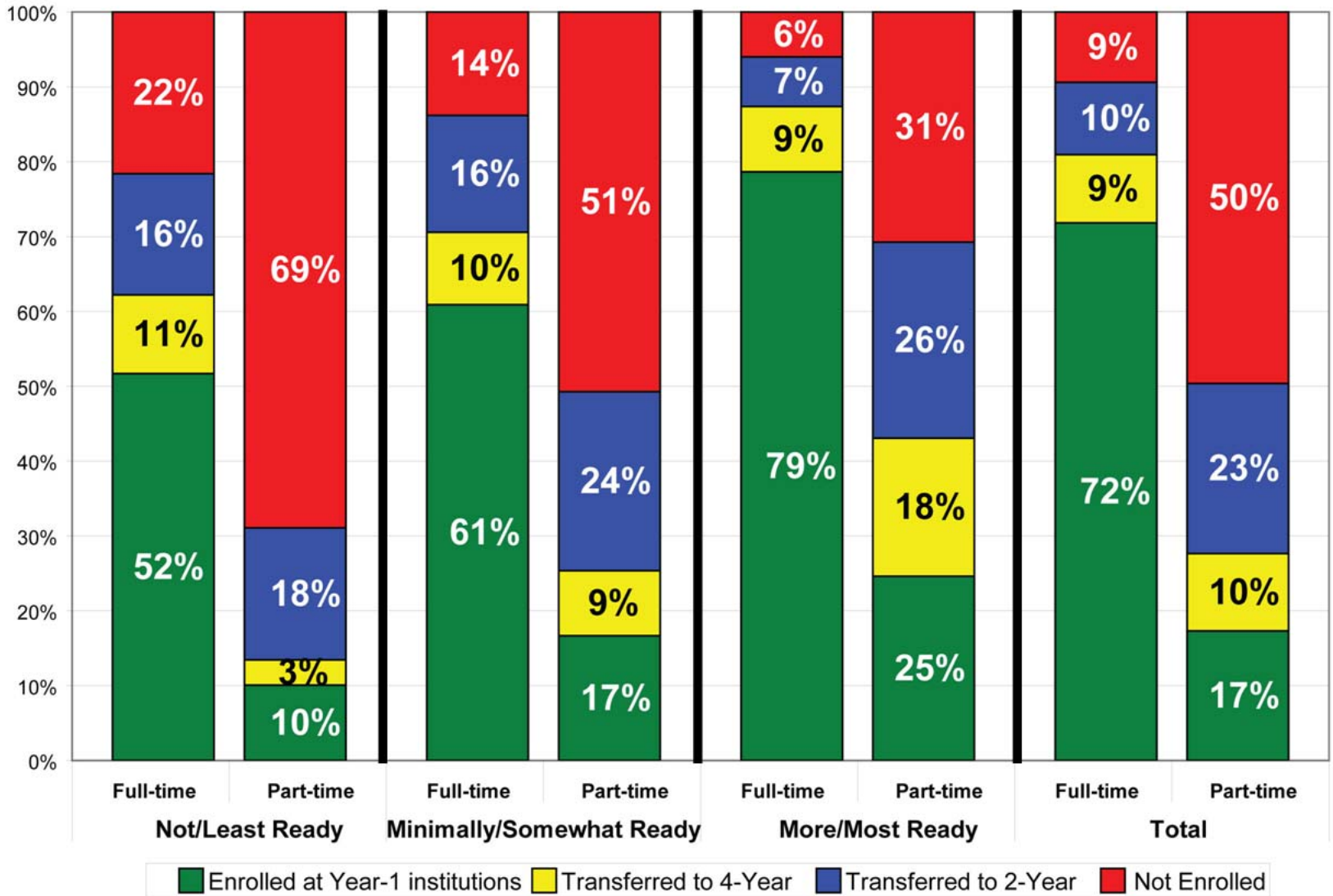


Enrolling full-time is very important to persistence —2-Year Starters in Year 3





And 4 -Year Starters in Year 3





Where students start also matters in persistence

- *Starting Full-time Only*

	Third Year Status				N
	Enrolled at Year 1 Institution	Not Enrolled	Transferred to 2-Year	Transferred to 4-Year	
	Not/Least Ready				
Two-Year Institutions	43%	36%	8%	13%	5,025
Non/Less Competitive 4Y	52%	26%	16%	7%	1,004
Competitive 4Y	56%	17%	17%	11%	1,578
Very Competitive 4Y	59%	17%	17%	7%	394
Most/Highly Competitive 4Y	73%	11%	8%	7%	83
	More Ready				
Two-Year Institutions	38%	23%	4%	35%	2,770
Non/Less Competitive 4Y	61%	16%	12%	12%	815
Competitive 4Y	70%	8%	11%	11%	4,903
Very Competitive 4Y	72%	8%	9%	10%	2,183
Most/Highly Competitive 4Y	84%	4%	5%	7%	896
	Most Ready				
Two-Year Institutions	27%	19%	3%	50%	1,441
Non/Less Competitive 4Y	75%	9%	7%	10%	578
Competitive 4Y	78%	6%	6%	10%	3,720
Very Competitive 4Y	82%	4%	5%	9%	3,169
Most/Highly Competitive 4Y	90%	3%	2%	5%	5,760



Reverse Transfer Patterns (4 Yr to 2 YR)

Year				Frequency	Percent of Reverse Transfers	Cumulative Percent
03	04	05	06			
4	2	2	2	943	18.5	18.5
4	4	2	2	805	15.8	34.3
4	4	4	2	665	13.1	47.4
4	2			623	12.2	59.6
4	2	2		603	11.8	71.5
4	4	2		417	8.2	79.7
4	4		2	184	3.6	83.3
4		2	2	163	3.2	86.5
4	2		2	146	2.9	89.4
4		2		144	2.8	92.2
4			2	134	2.6	94.8
	4	2	2	78	1.5	96.3
	4	4	2	60	1.2	97.5
		4	2	44	0.9	98.4
	4	2		41	0.8	99.2
	4		2	30	0.6	99.8
4		4	2	12	0.2	100.0
Total Reverse Transfers				5092	100.0	

- 47% of reverse transfer students were enrolled for all four years.
- 48% of reverse transfer students moved to the 2-year sector in their second year of college – so more than half had at least two years at a four-year institution before reverse transferring.



Swirl Patterns (change sectors more than once)

Year				Frequency	Percent of Swirlers	Cumulative Percent
03	04	05	06			
4	2	4	4	697	26.5	26.5
4	4	2	4	542	20.6	47.1
4	2	2	4	512	19.5	66.6
2	2	4	2	255	9.7	76.3
2	4	2	2	96	3.7	80.0
4	2	4	2	88	3.3	83.3
4	2	4		78	3.0	86.3
2	4	2	4	70	2.7	89.0
2	4	4	2	66	2.5	91.5
2	4	2		64	2.4	93.9
	4	2	4	38	1.4	95.3
4	2		4	36	1.3	96.6
2	4		2	31	1.2	97.8
	2	4	2	25	1.0	98.8
4		2	4	18	0.7	99.5
2		4	2	14	0.5	100.0
Total Swirlers				2630	100.0	

- 76% of swirlers start at four-year institutions
- 44% of swirlers return to their original institution



Who are the 4-Year Starters Who Reverse Transfer?

	Not/Least Ready	More/Most Ready
% who reverse transfer	22%	8%
Low Parent Income	25%	11%
High Parent Income	22%	5%
Public Institution	22%	6%
Private Institution	21%	8%
Less/Non Competitive	25%	12%
Competitive	22%	10%
Very Competitive	18%	8%
Most/Highly Selective	8%	3%

Readiness matters

Readiness trumps family income.

Not a public/private phenomenon

Selective colleges keep even their not-ready students



Key Findings

The two-year sector provides access to higher education to 20% of Illinois' college-ready high school graduates and 41% of all college-going high school graduates in Illinois.

College readiness matters more to persistence than to starting college.

Starting full-time matters. Attending full time trumps college readiness as a predictor of persistence.

Where students start college matters. A more competitive environment helps students at all levels of readiness to persist.

On-time transfer (within three years) is much more likely for college-ready two-year starters.



Recommendations

- 1. All students need to be helped to attend full time.** *Teachers, counselors, financial aid advisors, and the higher education community should work together to ensure that students and their parents understand the financial aid resources that are available to them – including loans when needed – as alternatives to extensive employment while attending college.*
- 2. We need to change the image of community colleges in Illinois.** *There are many well-qualified students attending two-year institutions who can do very well when they transfer to four year institutions. Community colleges serve as many college-ready students as the public four-year sector (excluding UI), as well as the large majority of those who enter postsecondary education not/least ready.*



3. The 7,000 college-ready traditional-age two-year starters each year (as well as older college-ready students) should be identified and given special support towards transfer to the four year sector, especially to competitive institutions.

4. Four-year institutions must help in the transition from usually small, local environments. *Some students will be living away from home for the first time while trying to negotiate a peer group that has had the opportunity to bond and become comfortable with campus life. Transfer students deserve scholarship opportunities, assurance of course transfers and respectful academic advising, and access to appropriate residential housing.*



Bibliography

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