

Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education

**SCHEV Council
January 11, 2021**



**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**

Council Objectives for Today

- 1. Summarize planning process.**
- 2. Review approved goals and the equity imperative.**
- 3. Discuss and act on proposed strategies supporting the three goals.**
- 4. Direct staff to finalize the draft Plan.**

Strategic Planning Process

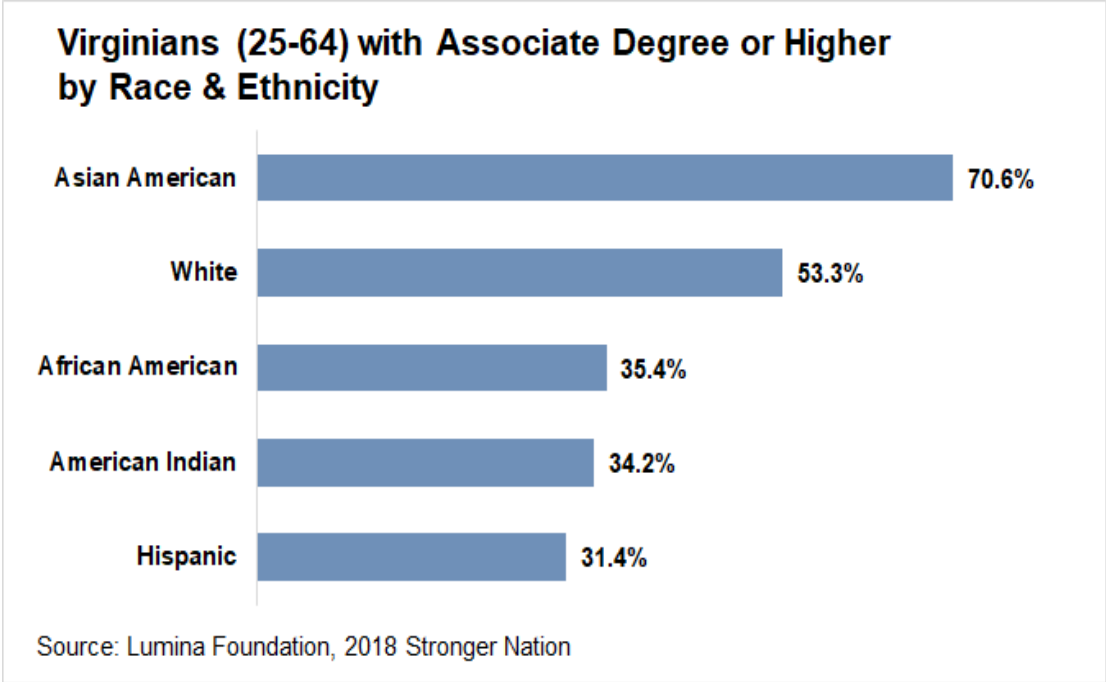
- **Quantitative assessment and qualitative input began in July 2019.**
 - “Where are we now” - a look at progress under prior plan.
 - Consistent line of questions to solicit input.
 - Additional outreach to advocacy groups/survey tool.
- **Council approval, in October, of three goals: Equitable, Affordable and Transformative higher education.**
- **Above inputs reflected in The Plan’s components.**

Emergent Themes from the Process

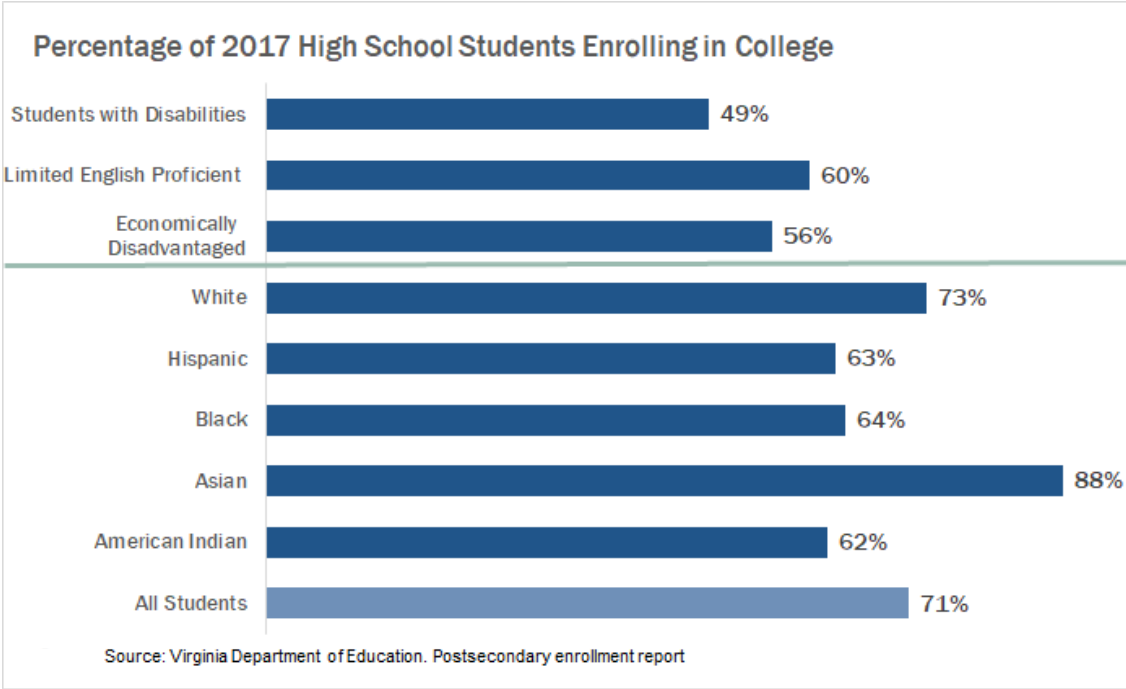
The Plan should:

- **Emphasize the importance of equity as a specific goal and an underlying element of The Plan.**
- **Ensure that The Plan's vision, target, goals, strategies and measures are linked closely.**
- **Enable clear connections between The Plan and SCHEV's day-to-day work and organizational commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.**
- **Adopt deliberate and boldly aspirational goals in light of the pandemic and social justice issues.**

The Equity Imperative - Attainment

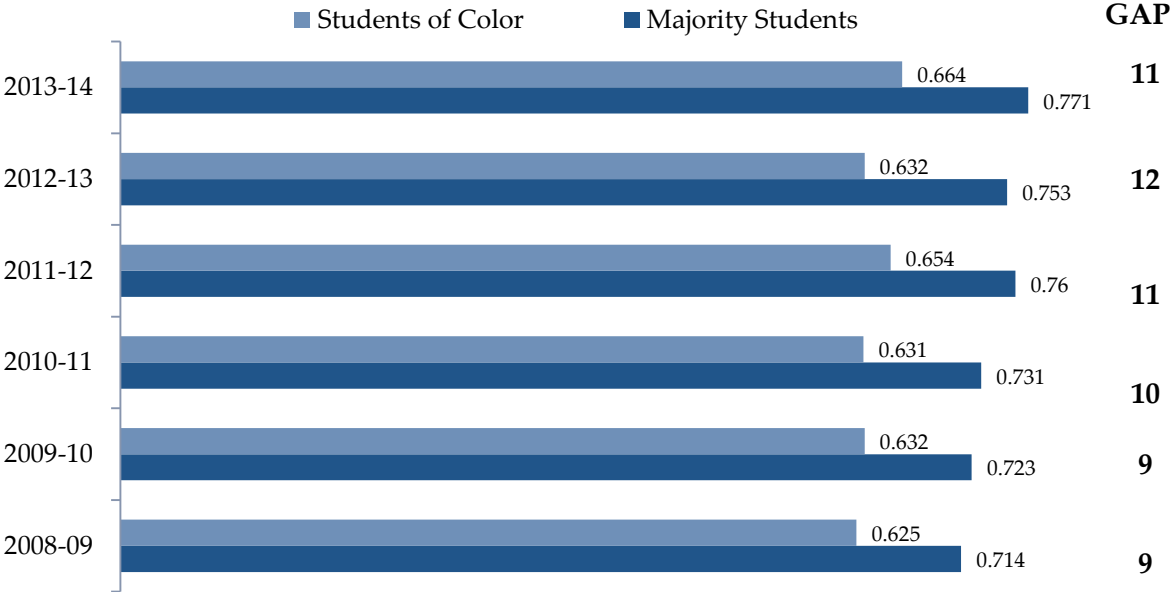


The Equity Imperative – Access



The Equity Imperative – Success

Success Index for Four-Year Public Institutions



Source: SCHEV Research

Virginia Plan – Approved Goals

- **Goal 1: Equitable** - Close access and completion gaps. Remove barriers to access and attainment especially for: Black, Hispanic, Native American and rural students; students learning English as a second language; students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and students with disabilities.
- **Goal 2: Affordable** - Lower costs to students. Invest in and support the development of initiatives that provide cost savings to students while maintaining the effectiveness of instruction; and
- **Goal 3: Transformative** - Expand prosperity. Increase the social, cultural and economic well-being of individuals and communities within the Commonwealth and its regions.

Pathways to Opportunity

- Vision: “Best State for Education”
- Target: 70% educational attainment by 2030, with a concerted focus on equity.
- Mission: Virginia will advance **equitable, affordable and transformative** higher education.

Goal 1: Equitable – Close Gaps

Proposed Supporting Strategies

Expand postsecondary opportunities and awareness to Virginians who may not view higher education as an option.

Advance digital access, adoption and literacy as well as high-quality, effective remote-learning programs.

Strengthen student support services for persistence and completion: mental health, mentoring, career services, social, student basic needs, information technology, disability support and other services.

Goal 2: Affordable – Lower Costs

Proposed Supporting Strategies

Align tuition and fees, financial aid and state appropriations such that students have broader access to postsecondary education opportunities regardless of their ability to pay.

Cultivate affordable postsecondary education pathways for traditional, non-traditional and returning students.

Update and reform funding models and policies to improve equity, affirm return on investment and encourage increased and consistent levels of state funding.

Foster program and administrative innovations that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.

Goal 3: Transformative – Expand Prosperity

Proposed Supporting Strategies

Support experiences that improve students' employment outcomes, income and community engagement.

Improve the alignment between post-secondary academic programs and labor market outcomes.

Cultivate innovation through scholarship, research and a diverse faculty.

Next Steps

Following Council's approval of strategies, SCHEV staff will:

- 1. Incorporate Council input into the final Plan;**
- 2. Refine measures and develop action plans supporting strategies and goal fulfillment; and**
- 3. Rollout The Plan's communications campaign.**