



# Students' Right to Know

## THE PROBLEM: HIGH DEBT AND LIMITED CAREER PATHWAYS



Students are not fully informed about **alternative pathways** to successful, good-paying jobs.



Students are being pressured into four-year degrees that **may not reflect the needs of the modern economy.**



Total U.S. **student debt totals more than \$1.64 trillion**—the average debt per student is more than \$37,000.

## THE SOLUTION: GIVE STUDENTS A CAREER ROADMAP

**Provide students with important information about:**



The cost of **four-year degrees versus the cost of technical schools**



The cost of **student loan repayment**



The **most in-demand jobs in the state**, including starting salary and educational requirements for those jobs



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## IT WOULD HELP: STUDENTS AVOID DEBT

Ashlee had been balancing school and full-time work as she worked towards a four-year degree while helping to support her family financially. During her third year of college, she made the tough decision to stop attending classes—but she still had \$12,000 in loans to pay back.



**Ashlee**  
in default on student loans

**“I’m drowning in debt for a piece of paper I never received,”** she says.

Now, Ashlee is in default, owes more than she initially took out, and her debt has ruined her credit.

Ashlee isn’t alone. More than half of college students enrolled in a four-year program have not graduated after six years. Dropouts face a student loan default rate that is three times higher than those who have graduated.

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