

# The College Completion Agenda

## State Capitals Campaign 2011

## Maryland

Central to Governor Martin O'Malley's education policy goal is improving student achievement and school, college and career readiness in Maryland by 25 percent by 2015.<sup>1</sup> Maryland has made great strides toward this goal by establishing the P-20 Leadership Council and increasing appropriations to higher education to help keep college affordable. State education policies and student performance placed Maryland's education system at the very top of national rankings.

### Progress Toward 55% by 2025

# 44.6%

Currently, the percentage of 25-to-34-year-olds with an associate degree or higher is 44.6 percent in Maryland, which is above the national average of 41.6 percent. Maryland ranks among the top 10 states in the nation for college completion rates.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2010

### Overview of Progress

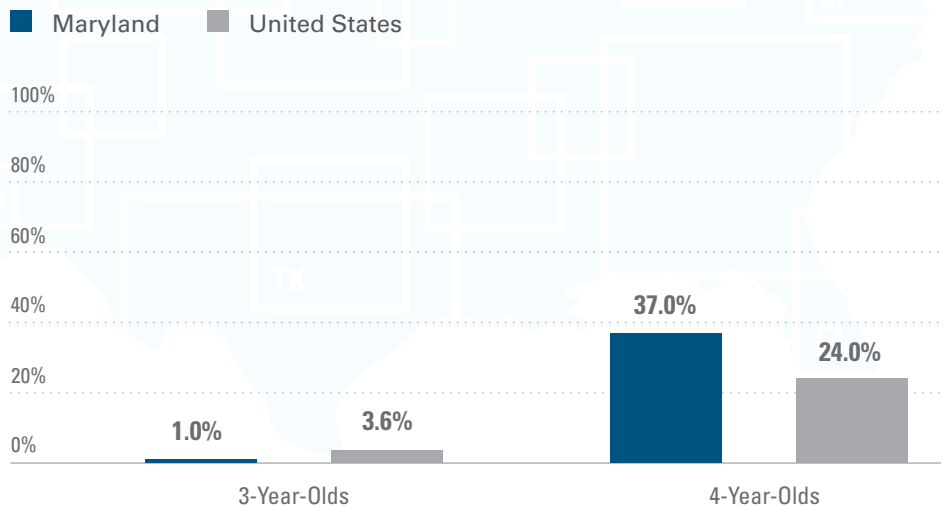
Governor O'Malley established the P-20 Leadership Council by enlisting the help of K-12 educators, higher education officials and business leaders to strengthen educational achievement from preschool through college, and beyond. Governor O'Malley identified one focus of the P-20 Leadership Council as aligning high school graduation requirements with college readiness requirements. Last May, a task force charged by the governor and the council presented recommendations for statewide changes around college readiness and college success.<sup>2</sup>

### Enrollment in State-Funded Pre-K Programs, 2008

#### Recommendation One

Governor O'Malley's Strategic education policy goal includes increasing the number of children participating in Pre-K programs by 12 percent by 2010. Maryland ranks ninth in the United States for percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in state funded Pre-K programs.

Source: National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers Graduate School of Education, 2009



## Public High Schools Offering AP® in Four Core Subject Areas

### Recommendation Four

# 67.3%

As of 2009, 67.3 percent of public high schools in Maryland offer AP in the four core subject areas. Maryland ranks highest in the nations, well above the 33.9 percent average in the United States. This is a true testament to Governor O'Malley's statewide goal of enhancing student access to postsecondary education for all students, especially for disadvantaged and minority students, by aligning high school expectations with college admission requirements.

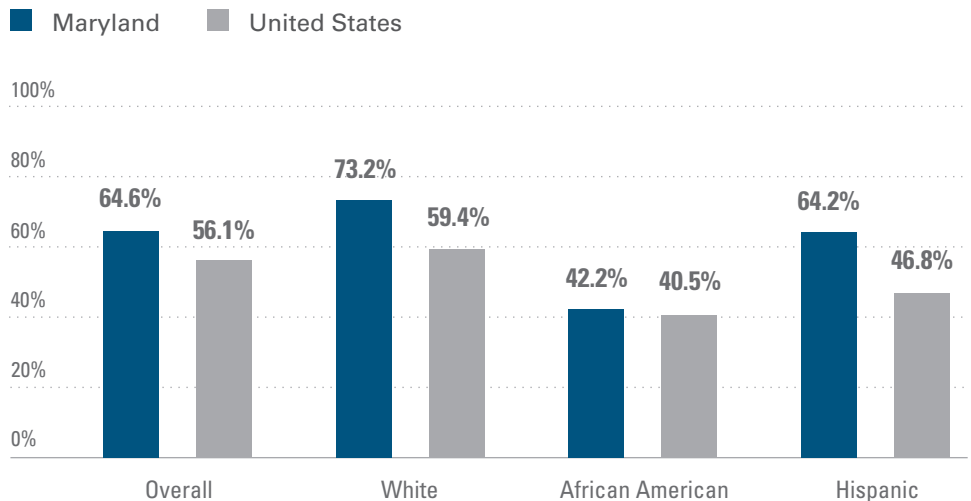
Source: The College Board and International Baccalaureate, 2009

## Six-Year Graduation Rates of Bachelor's Degree-Seeking Students, 2007

### Recommendation Nine

Maryland not only ranks among the top five states in the United States in the number of bachelor's degree-seeking students who graduate within six years, but it is also among the leading states in the number of Hispanic students graduating within six years.

Source: National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, 2009



Funding for higher education increased by \$398 million (nearly 34 percent), from 2005 to 2008, which allowed Maryland to make great strides in the areas of access and affordability. The state went from the sixth highest in undergraduate tuition rate to the 16th. Maryland now ranks 12th in need-based aid, up from 23rd in 2005. However, with forced reductions to all state budgets, the challenge to sustain appropriations to higher education will be greater.<sup>3</sup>

Under the leadership of State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick, Maryland's public school system was ranked as the nation's #1 public school system by *Education Week* for three straight years and first nationwide in the percentage of seniors scoring 3 or higher on at least one AP® Exam.<sup>4</sup>

1. <http://www.statestat.maryland.gov/GDU/2EducationDeliveryPlan.pdf>
2. <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/ronlyres/6AB0644C-8E86-4F3A-96F3-F6455688E1F7/24205/FinalReportMay2011.pdf>
3. 2009 Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education.
4. *The 6th Annual AP Report to the Nation* (2010).

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