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## *Educational Session*

### **2348 - Reengineering Transfer: Developing Systematic Independent College Transfer Pathways in New England**

Partnerships and Collaboration, Credits and Degree Pathways

Session facilitators will explore early lessons learned through the implementation of The New England College Transfer Guarantee (The Guarantee) including the critical importance of establishing state and institutional partnerships to promote buy-in, accelerate change and build long-term sustainability. Through the Guarantee, systematic transfer pathways have been developed for community college graduates into independent institutions in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

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# Reengineering Transfer: Developing Systematic Independent College Transfer Pathways in New England

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# Session Outline

## **Session themes:**

Collaboration & Partnership, Unification, Alignment

### **1. Introductions**

### **2. About the New England College Transfer Guarantee**

a. CT Guarantee

### **3. How did we get here?**

a. Planning Phase

b. Implementation Phase

### **4. Challenges**

### **5. Best practices to take home**

# About the New England Board of Higher Education

## & TRANSFER INITIATIVES



## Transfer Initiatives

Support state systems, public and independent higher education institutions, throughout the region by promoting and reporting on effective and seamless transfer policies.

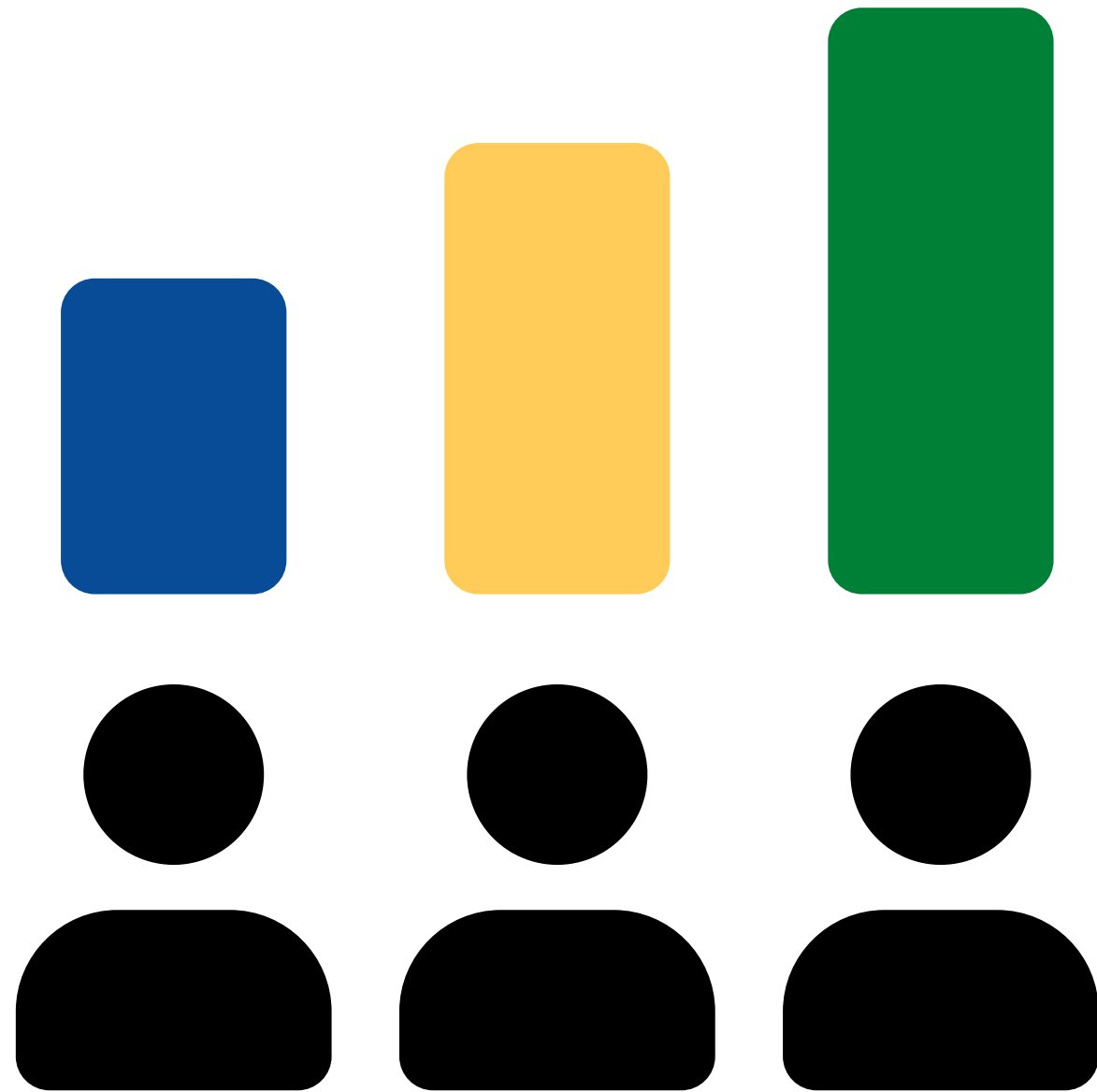
### **The Guarantee:**

- Planning grant funded in 2019 for southern states (7 months)
- Implementation grant funded in 2019 for southern states (3 years)
- Planning grant funded in 2021 for northern state expansion (8 months)

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How many of you transferred at least once on the path to completing a bachelor's degree?

What percentage of community college students indicate they intend to transfer to a 4-year institution?



# Drivers

## **New England Landscape**

- Enrollment decline
- Demographic shifts
- High concentration of independents
- Strong public transfer systems (CT, MA)

## **Transfer Barriers**

- Credit loss
- Lack of systematized transfer to independents
- Transparency
- Best fit
- Affordability
- Equity
- Credentials and skills gaps
- Insufficient student support systems

# What is the New England College Transfer Guarantee?

State-specific systematic transfer for guaranteed admission between community colleges and four-year independent institutions in CT, MA and RI.

## GUARANTEED ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY

Associate degree

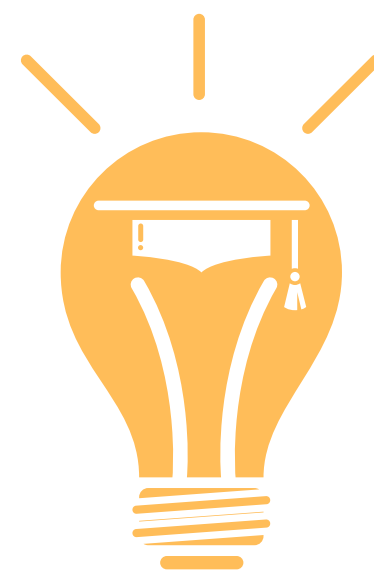
Eligible GPA

## BENEFITS AND FEATURES

Application fee waiver

Financial / scholarship incentives

Guaranteed transfer of credit



## PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

100% of community colleges

60% of independents

## PARTNERS

Independent College Associations

Public Higher Ed Systems



# MORE OPTIONS, MADE EASY

## Partners



## Eligibility

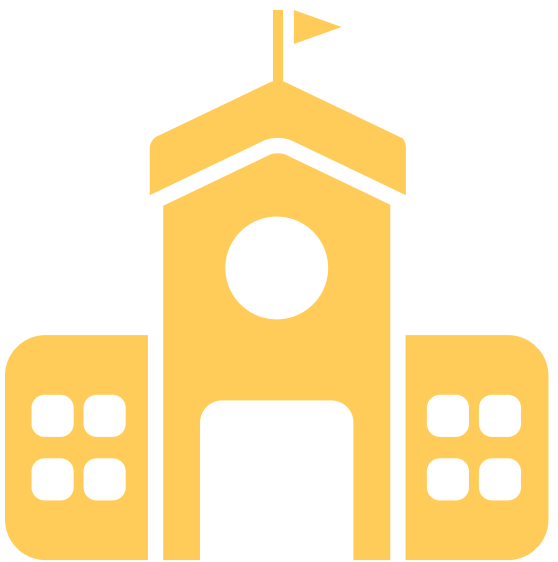
- Tiered GPA: 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 (institutions self-select)
- Associate degree from a CT community college

## Additional Features

- Optional general education core waiver
- Mapped pathways (Transfer Tickets)



# CT Guarantee by the Numbers

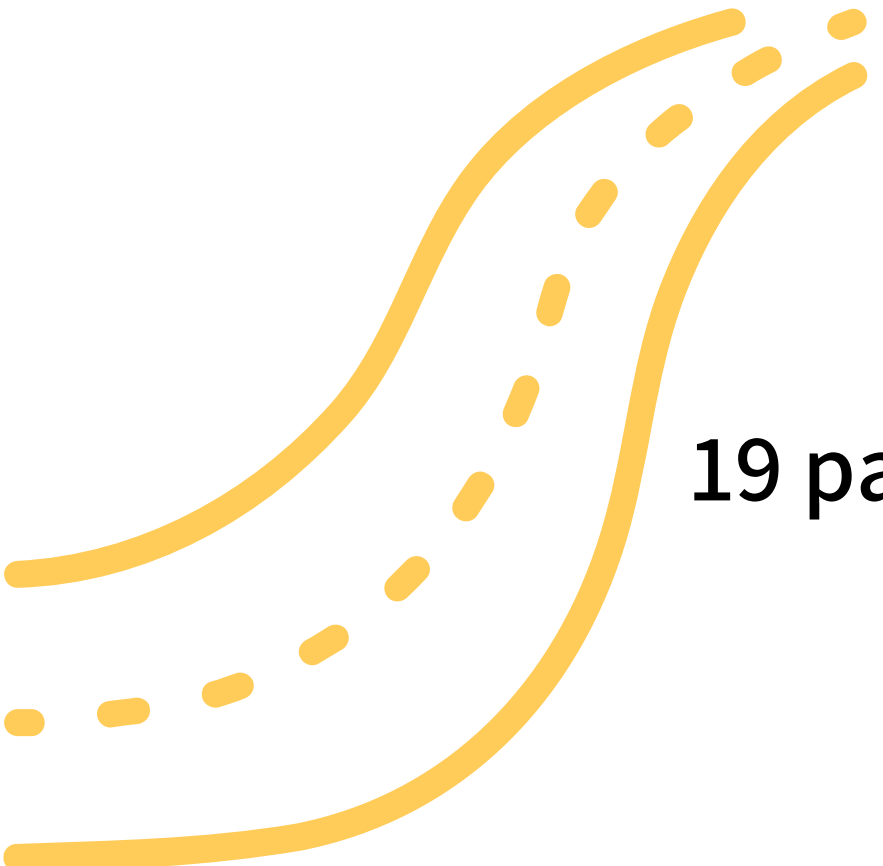


**9 participating institutions**

- Albertus Magnus College
- Goodwin University
- Mitchell College
- Sacred Heart University
- Quinnipiac University
- University of Bridgeport
- University of Hartford
- University of New Haven
- University of Saint Joseph



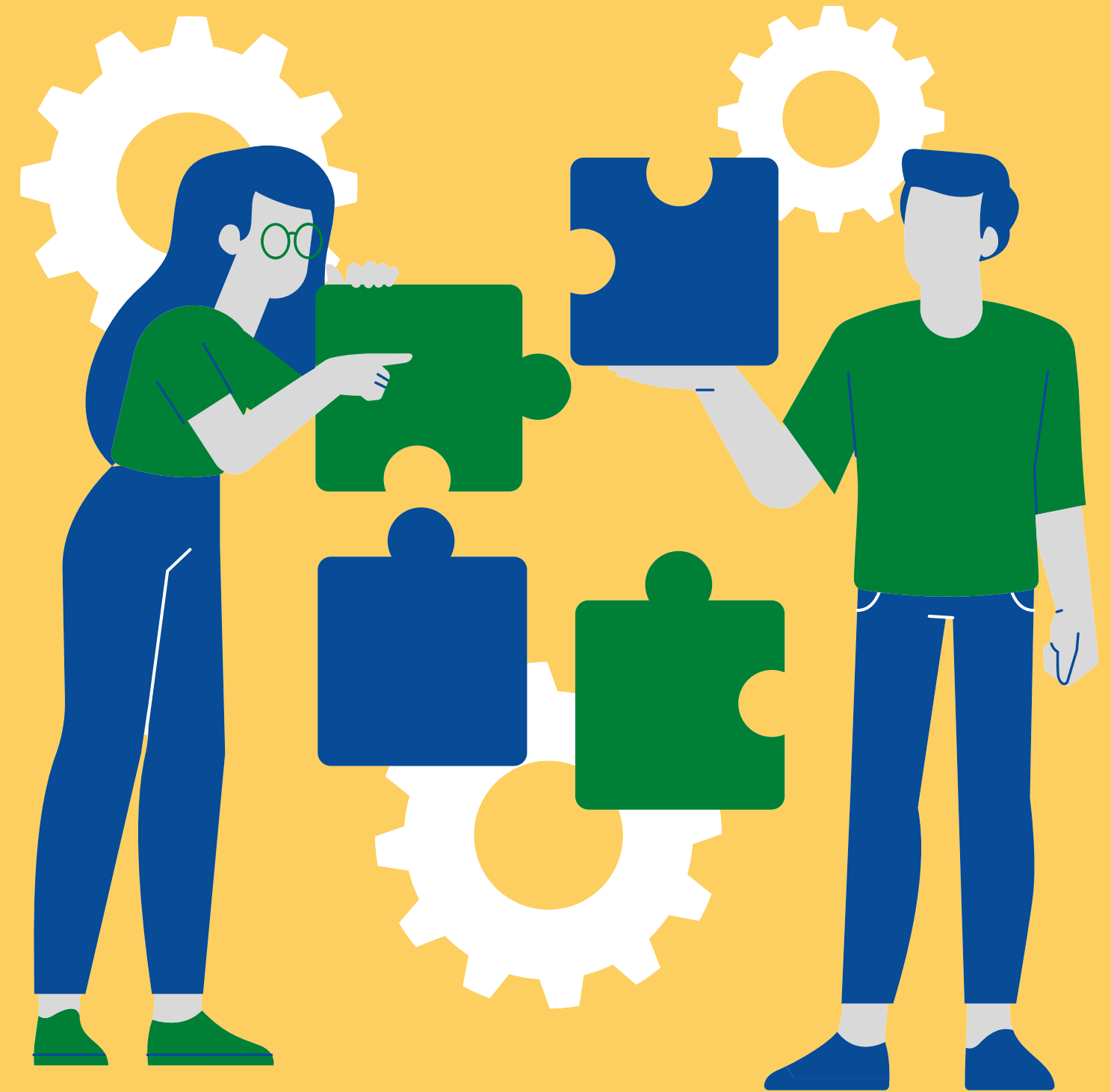
**124 students** utilized the Guarantee in Spring 2021



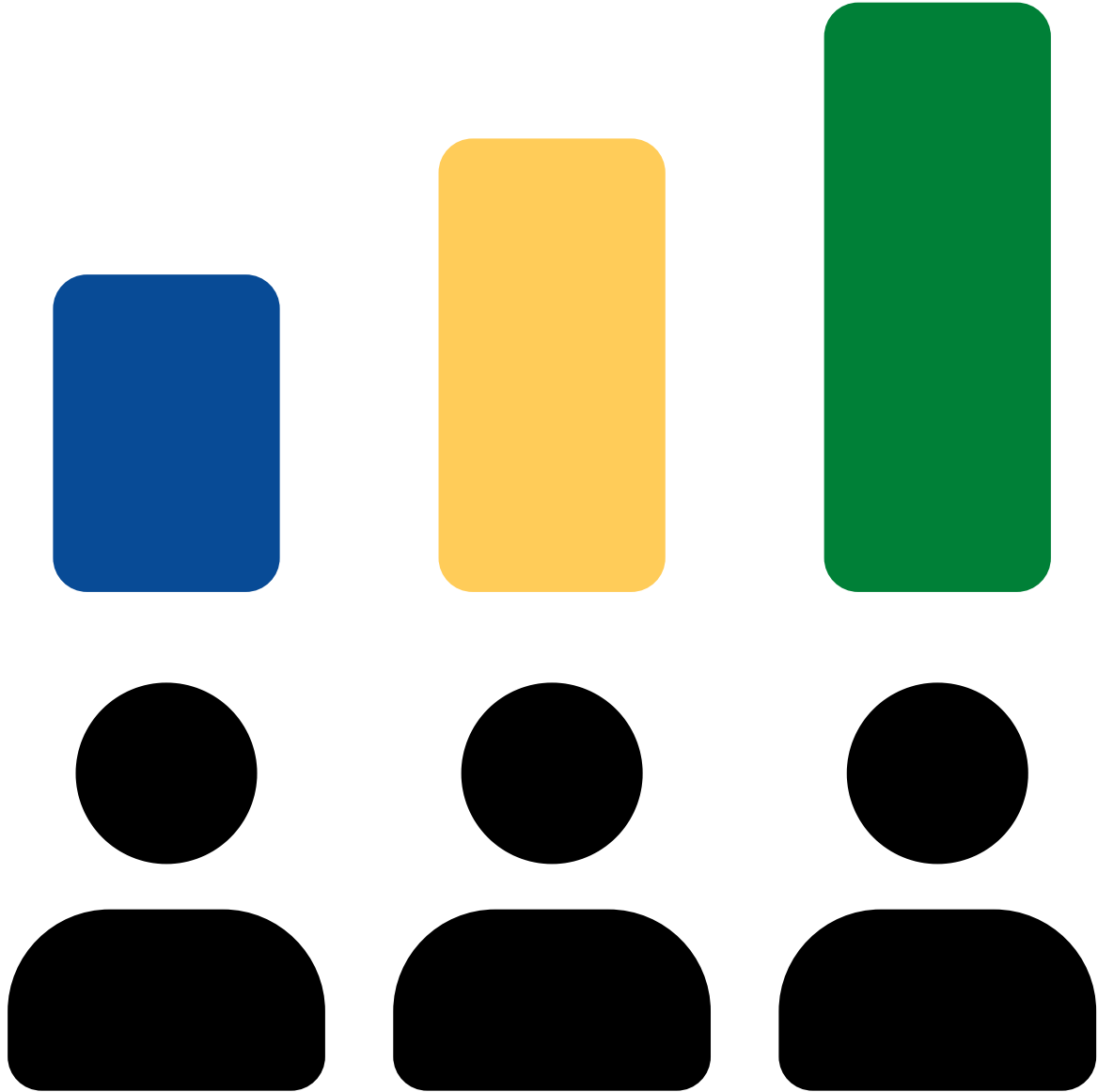
**19 pathways** (Transfer Tickets) available

# How did we get here?

## The Planning Phase



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**How many articulation agreements does your institution have?**

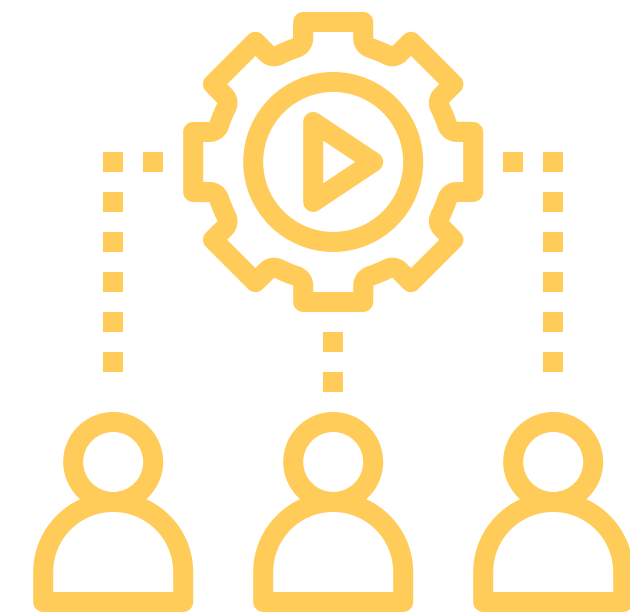
**How many students take advantage of articulation agreements?**

**Does your institution offer guaranteed admission to first year or transfer students?**

# Planning Phase: Initial Activities

## Cultivating buy-in

1. Partnered with CCIC and CSCU prior to planning grant submission
2. Met with legislature, the Governor's Office
3. Presented at regional conferences
4. Collected critical data
5. Hosted state specific convening to discuss the initiative (once funded)
  - a. Attendees included independent colleges and community colleges



## Intent to Participate

1. Institutions signed non-binding) LOIs
2. Submitted LOI's with final report and implementation proposal

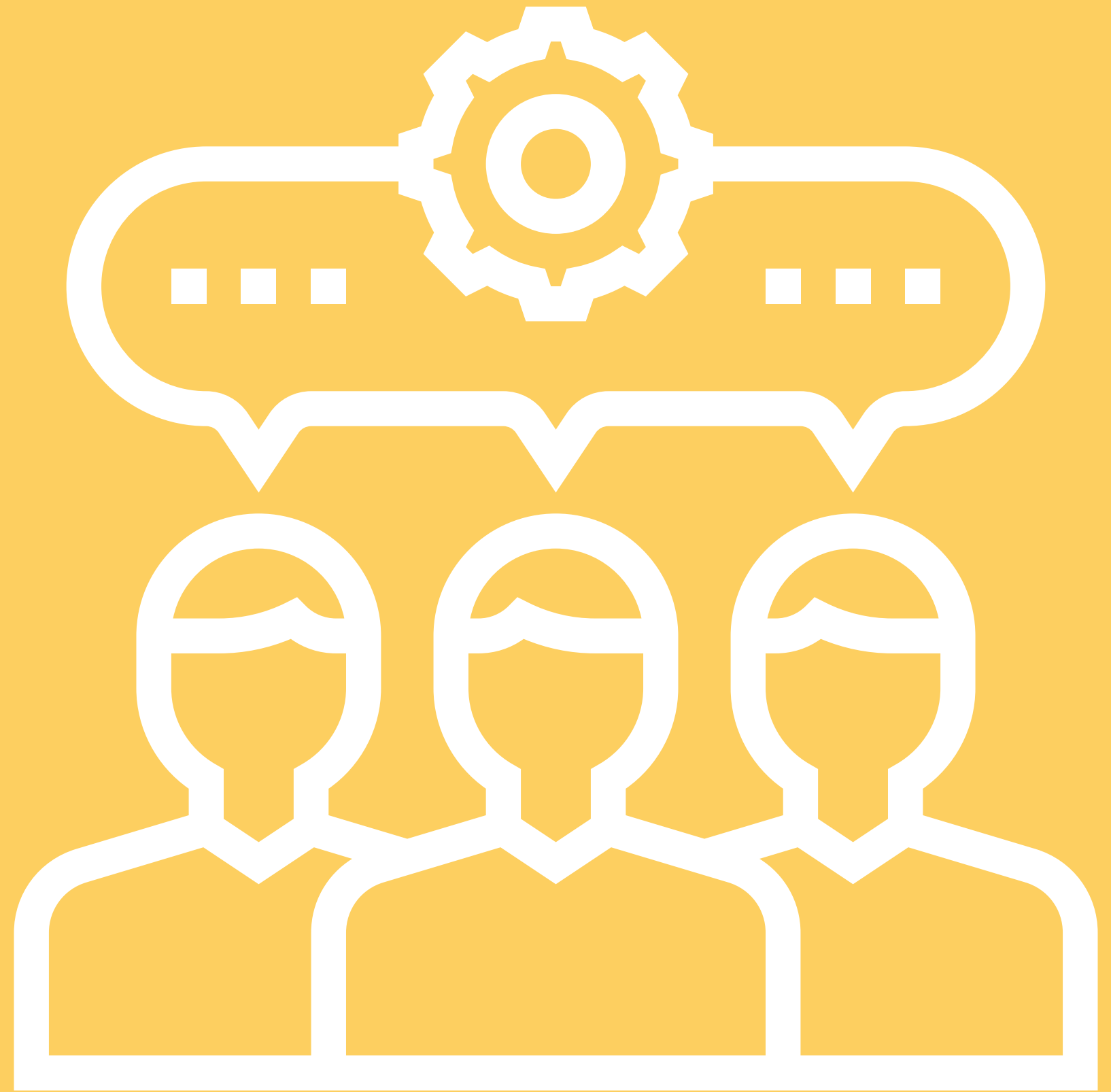
# Why would CSCU want to participate

## BUILDING UPON STATE TRANSFER POLICY FOR UNIFICATION

- The agreement creates competition for the 4yr schools within our system. Is that a bad thing?
- It was a five-year difficult process to create our transfer policies. How can we allow other schools to participate without any buy-in?
- Overall, it comes down to data:
  - 63% of our community college students are transferring to 4-year schools outside of our system
  - 60% of that population is doing so without a degree

# How did we get here?

## The Implementation Phase



# Implementation Phase: Initial Activities

## Phase One:

1. Establish CT Steering Committee
2. Draft Foundational Design and Guiding Principles

## Phase Two:

1. Host multiple participating institution collaborative convenings and build consensus
  - a. Finalize Foundational Design / Guiding Principles
  - b. Framework30 and Transfer Tickets

## Phase Three:

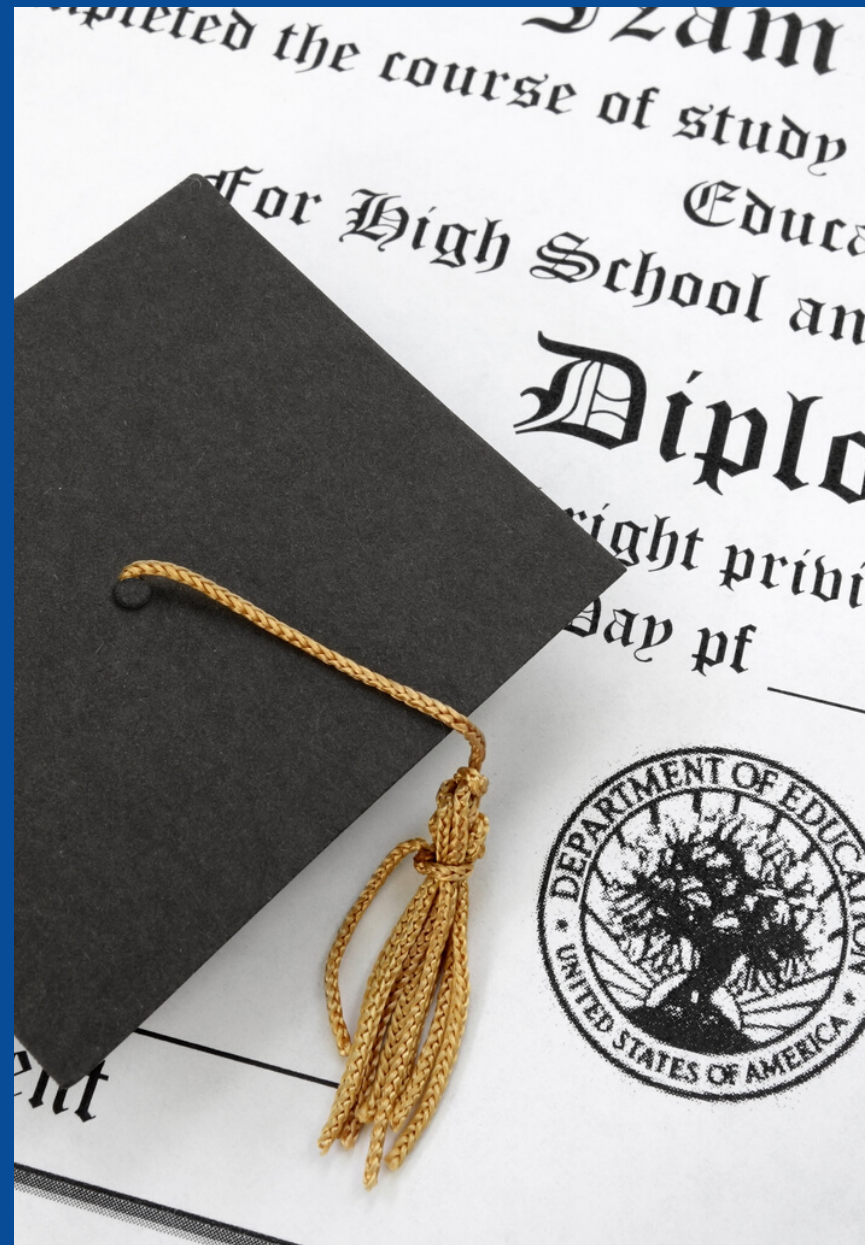
1. Develop and finalize Memorandums of Agreement (MOA)
2. Collect MOAs (rolling participation)
3. Collect Transfer Tickets (continuous)

## Phase Four:

1. Establish websites (NEBHE / CSCU)
2. Develop promotional materials



# "A DEGREE IS A DEGREE"



- Promoting a **student-centered approach** and culture
- Moving away from one-to-one agreements towards **master agreements**
- **Reevaluating** out-dated transfer policy
- **Unifying systematic state-wide transfer**
- Providing greater access, opportunity, and affordability
- Promoting **collaboration** and partnership
- Promoting radical **transparency** for the transfer audience



# Agreements + Transfer Methodology

## BUILDING UPON STATE TRANSFER POLICY FOR UNIFICATION

### **State- Specific Memorandums of Agreement**

- Master document: roles, responsibilities, transfer methodology, policies and practices, recommendations, student support, incentives
- Key appendices: Institutional transfer policy alignment, Guiding Principles



# Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP)

## BUILDING UPON STATE TRANSFER POLICY FOR UNIFICATION

- Passed by the Legislature in 2012 (Public Act 12-31) requiring Connecticut State Colleges and Universities to create seamless transfer pathways
- Currently consists of 25 Transfer Tickets
- Transfer Tickets are major to major pathways consistent throughout all 12 community colleges and aligned with the system's 4-year programs

# Guiding Principles of the Guarantee

## PUTTING STUDENTS AT THE CENTER

- Acknowledge and value the rich perspectives, life experiences, persistence, diversity, and the academic preparation community college transfer students bring to their institutions.
- Recognize the demographic challenges facing New England, and that community college transfer students are vitally essential to the future sustainability of both public and independent four-year institutions.
- Provide tailored pre-application and post-acceptance support services for transfer students, including: intensive advising, academic guidance and counseling, academic support, peer advising, personal guidance and counseling, transfer student orientations, career services and supplemental services.



# NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE TRANSFER GUARANTEE

# MORE OPTIONS, MADE EASY



## Choose the new route to a bachelor's degree.

Community college graduates can now transfer directly to participating four-year independent colleges in their state. The Guarantee provides a clear, affordable path for associate degree holders with an eligible GPA to complete a bachelor's degree at 30+ independent colleges across New England, admission guaranteed.

## It's simple, seamless, smart.

### STUDENTS

- More four-year choices than ever.
- Guaranteed admission with full credit transfer.
- No admissions fees, more financial support.

### EDUCATORS

- Simple, one-stop process for all schools.
- Better matches for individual students.
- No lost time and fewer financial hurdles.

### STATES

- A more efficient statewide college transfer system.
- Fewer barriers for diverse students.
- Higher rates of degree completion.

## FIND YOUR PATH

Visit your state's Guarantee website to plan your path to a 4-year degree.



**CONNECTICUT**  
[ct.edu/transfer/guarantee](http://ct.edu/transfer/guarantee)



**MASSACHUSETTS**  
[mass.edu/masstransfer/maguarantee](http://mass.edu/masstransfer/maguarantee)



**RHODE ISLAND**  
[ccri.edu](http://ccri.edu)

# Challenges

- Marketing and promotion
- CT community college consolidation
- Guarantee Coordinators' decision making abilities





# How all institutions benefit

- Fostering collaboration and partnership across public and private sectors
- Increasing transparency
- Placing students at the center of the discussion
- Fostering an ecosystem of healthy competition
- Thinking holistically and beyond individual institution or program articulation agreements
- Collaboration to create policies and practices that work for all students



# Additional Take-home Suggestions



- Identify transfer champions
- How can individual institutions do this?
  - Creating coalitions for publics, systems work
  - Banding together with key partners
- Explore master agreements

# Scaling the Guarantee: Planning Grant

EXPLORING SCALING TO MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND VERMONT

## Planning Grant Details

- Arthur Vining Davis Foundation & the Teagle Foundation 8-month \$50,000 planning grant (July 2021 - February 2022) to scale to ME, NH and VT.
- Subject to the success of the planning grant, NEBHE plans to submit a three-year implementation proposal in the spring of 2022.







## Contact Us

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## Links

- [nebhe.org/the-guarantee](https://nebhe.org/the-guarantee)
- [mass.edu/masstransfer/maguarantee](https://mass.edu/masstransfer/maguarantee)
- [ct.edu/transfer/guarantee](https://ct.edu/transfer/guarantee)
- [ccri.edu/riguarantee](https://ccri.edu/riguarantee)