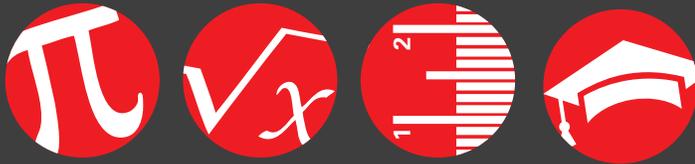


# FAST FACTS

All Ohio public colleges and universities will offer pathways in mathematics that help students succeed, increase the percentage of students completing degree programs and promote the effective transfer of credits for students moving from one institution to another.



## Ohio Mathematics Initiative

May 2018

### Ohio Receives \$2.1 million Strong Start to Finish Grant

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**FACT:** *Currently, only one third of first-time students at Ohio's public colleges and universities complete college-level math and English in their first year of postsecondary education.*

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Research and experience confirm that the sooner students take courses that count toward a college degree, the greater the chance that they will earn a degree. Yet, for many students, access to credit bearing courses is delayed. Traditional remediation models in which some students take a series of remedial classes to acquire the skills needed to move forward to college-level mathematics courses generally do not result in students progressing to graduation.

One third of first time students completing college-level mathematics or English in their first year is unacceptable. Ohio's higher education leaders understand this and have committed to increasing that number to 50 percent by 2021, including reducing equity gaps for economically disadvantaged students, students of color, rural students, and students over the age of 25.

To support their efforts, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, working in partnership with Inter-University Council and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, has been selected to

"The overarching goals of our Strong Start to Finish initiative are to put all students on a path to a successful future and to ensure that our businesses have the skilled workers they need to succeed. This grant will go a long way in pursuit of those goals while supporting students as they begin their postsecondary journey."

**Chancellor John Carey**  
Ohio Department of Higher Education

"This award is an affirmation from national funders that Ohio community colleges have repeatedly shown they are up to implementing reforms at scale that will lead to more students completing college and entering the workforce."

**Jack Hershey, President and CEO**  
Ohio Association of Community Colleges

"Public universities in Ohio are pleased to participate in this grant. It will help focus our resources in improving graduation rates for at-risk students. Graduating on time is the most effective way to reduce student costs."

**Bruce Johnson, President**  
Inter-University Council

receive a \$2.1 million dollar grant from Strong Start to Finish (SSTF) aimed at getting students on successful pathways to college completion, while also addressing the attainment gaps for historically underserved populations.

Ohio is one of only four sites in the country to receive a \$2.1 million dollar grant, which will be paid over three years. Ohio's application was chosen for its exemplary "use of evidence-based practice and commitment to achieve greater equity," according to SSTF. Grant funding will be used to address attainment gaps for underserved populations, and to boost student success strategies.

SSTF funding builds upon momentum created by years of policy and practice improvement for student success. These initiatives include Ohio Mathematics Initiative, Completion by Design, Ohio Guided Pathways Scaling Project, Ohio Bridges to Success, Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways, the state's Uniform Statewide Standards for Remediation-free Status, and other completion initiatives. Collectively, these programs strive to help public colleges and universities improve student success by systematically linking three successful initiatives, structured degree pathways, redesigned mathematics gateway courses, and corequisite remediation.

Funding for SSTF has been provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates, and The Kresge Foundation.

#### **Ohio universities participating in the Strong Start to Finish Grant are:**

- Bowling Green State University
- Central State University
- Cleveland State University
- Kent State University
- Miami University
- The Ohio State University
- Ohio University
- Shawnee State University
- University of Cincinnati
- The University of Toledo
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University.

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#### **Participating community colleges are:**

- Belmont College
- Central Ohio Technical College
- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
- Clark State Community College
- Columbus State Community College
- Edison Community College
- Lorain County Community College
- Hocking College
- Marion Technical College
- North Central State College
- Owens Community College
- Rhodes State College
- Rio Grande Community College
- Sinclair Community College
- Southern State Community College
- Stark State College
- Terra State Community College
- Washington State Community College



Department of  
Higher Education

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[www.ohiohighered.org/math](http://www.ohiohighered.org/math)