

# Commissioner's Spotlight

October 22, 2024

# Spotlight Overview

- Budget Update
- Upward Mobility through Higher Education
- Data Report
  - Early enrollment
  - Student success
- Addressing student success

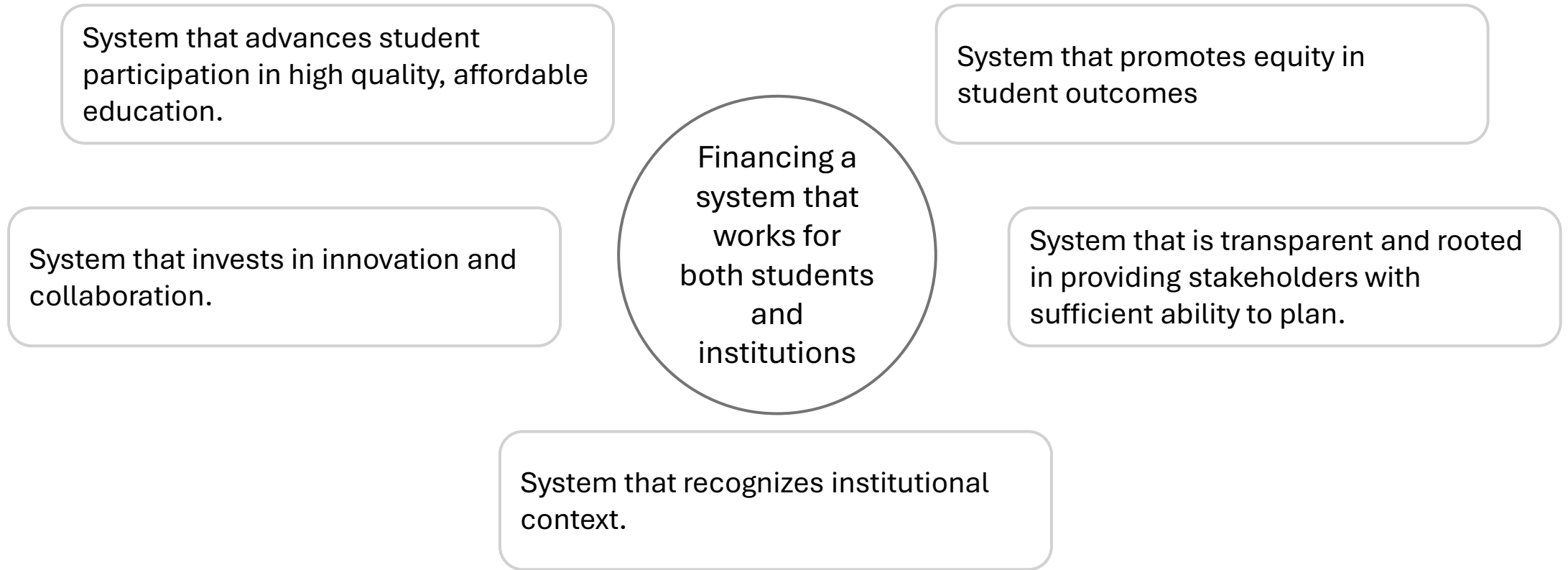


Michael Dannenberg, J.D.  
Deputy Commissioner for Policy



Mario Delci, Ph.D.  
Associate Commissioner of Research & Planning

## Leadership Team Members Presenting Today



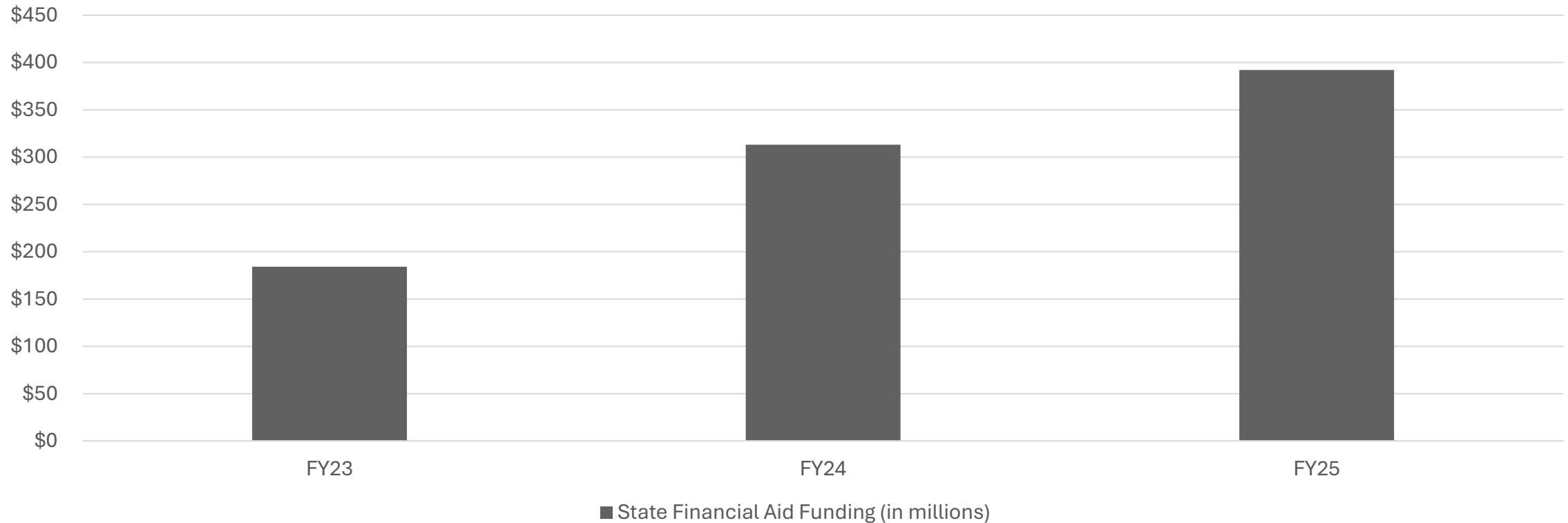
# Strategic Higher Education Finance (SHEF) Framework

# Commissioner's Charge (BHE 23-23)

Work with stakeholders, including institutional leaders, policy makers and the legislature, and others, to advance the implementation of the SHEF framework through necessary legislative, executive and budgetary actions...and to provide regular updates to Board on the Department's progress in this regard.

# Doubling of State Student Financial Aid

State Financial Aid Funding (in millions)





MassEducate:  
Free Community College for Students of All Ages

# Mass.gov/StudentAid



## Free and Affordable College

Free and affordable college tuition and fees are here across public Massachusetts community colleges and four-year universities!

## Community College Opportunities

Looking to go to public community college? Massachusetts has one of the nation's most comprehensive free community college programs, with universal aid for tuition and fees, and for certain students there are also financial resources for books, supplies, and other expenses.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE](#)

## Public Four-Year College Opportunities

Looking to go to a four-year public university? If your family makes up to \$85,000 a year before taxes, you can likely go tuition and fee free. Additionally, many students from middle-income families can get tuition and fees reduced by up to 50%.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT MASSGRANT PLUS](#)

## Other Financial Aid and Financial Aid Applications

[Learn about other state financial](#)

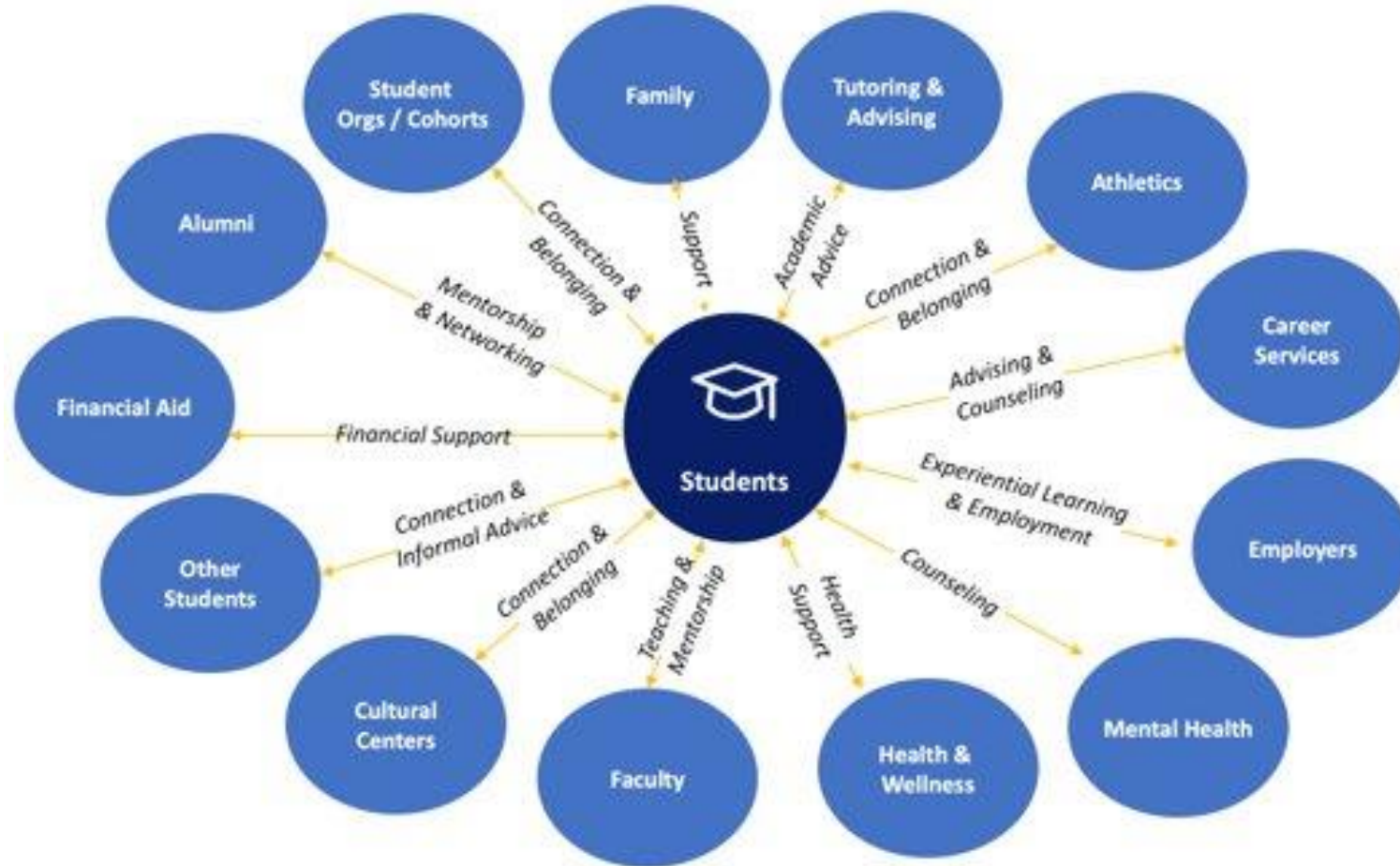


# Expanding opportunities for upward mobility through higher education



# Early Enrollment Report & Student Success Presentation

# "It Takes a Village"



# Student Success

- Importance of wraparound services like mentors, academic skills workshops, advising and more
- Success Framework
  - Entrance and Early Momentum
  - Financial Support and Addressing Basic Needs Barriers
  - Aligning Purpose and Program
  - Clear Pathways with Transfer Support
  - Post-Credential Planning and Engagement
- SUCCESS: Designated in the budget “to improve outcomes for their most vulnerable populations including, but not limited to, low-income, first-generation, minority and disabled students and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students.”

# Committees and Commissions

# Commission on Higher Education Quality and Affordability (CHEQA)

- **Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, section 215, as enacted, states:**

“The board of higher education shall convene a task force to study and make recommendations on improving quality and affordability of higher education in the Commonwealth, including state financial assistance programs for students domiciled in the Commonwealth and attending the University of Massachusetts segment or the state university segment.”

# CHEQA's Legislatively- Mandated Topic Areas

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**State assistance programs**, including state aid for tuition, fees, books, supplies and other **costs of attendance**.

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**Student costs and debts** associated with postsecondary education enrolment.

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**Programs that improve student success**, including, but not limited to, academic support, career counselling, and assistance with applying for state and federal benefits and improvements to facilities.

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Improvements needed to increase the **recruitment and retention of** qualified adjunct and full-time **faculty and staff**.

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**Financial assistance program design** and models to efficiently increase state assistance, improve outcomes, and reduce student costs.



- Steering Committee established in FY25 GAA Sections 24 and 218
- Fall 2024 meeting
- Committee's input on:
  - Common course numbering for all lower-level courses
  - Improving user experience on website

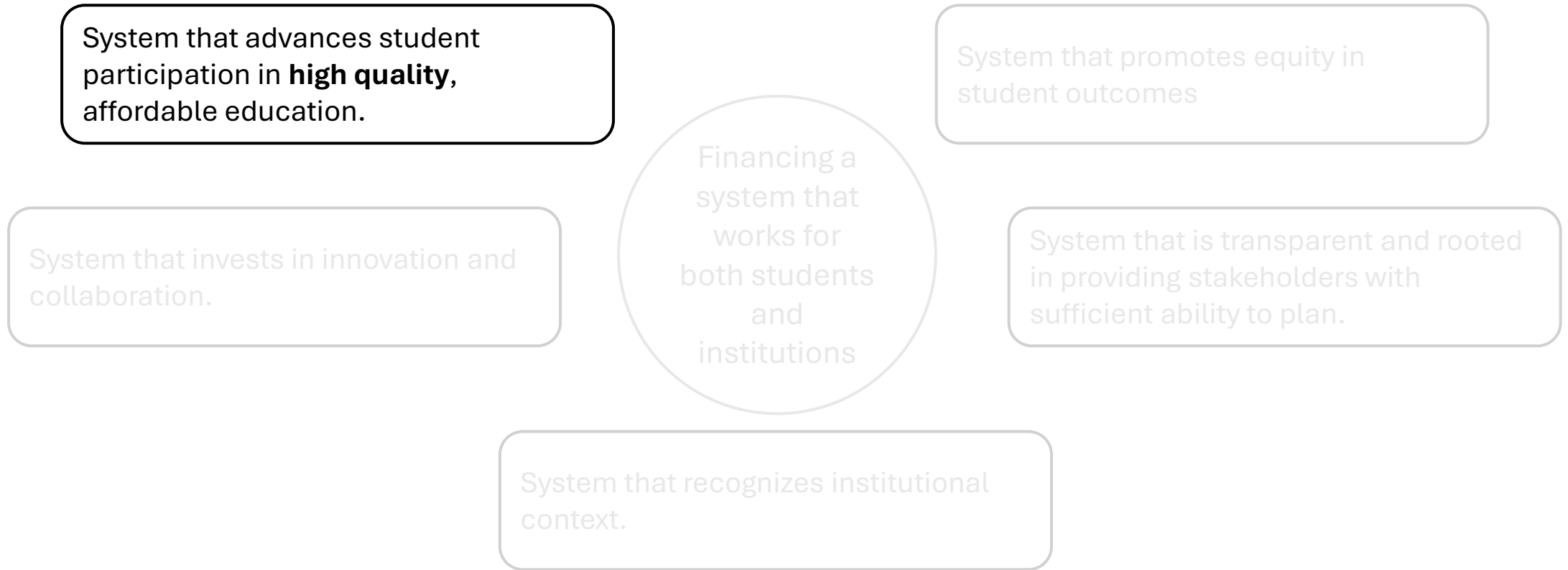




# Advisory Council to Advance Representation in Education (ACARE)

Recommendations in Five Key Areas (ACARE, October 16, 2024):

- 1) Increasing Exposure and Access to Higher Education for K-12 Students;
- 2) Re-engaging Adult Learners and Encourage Participation in Higher Education;
- 3) Implementing Innovative Recruitment, Admissions and Enrollment Policies;
- 4) Improving Equity in Financial Aid;
- 5) Increasing Persistence and Completion for Historically Underserved Students.



# Strategic Higher Education Finance (SHEF) Framework

Thank You and Questions