

College Possible makes college admission and success possible for students from low-income backgrounds through coaching and support. Since 2014, College Possible Minnesota has received appropriations from the State of Minnesota to expand our work across the state and support more students pursuing higher education. This report describes College Possible's impact as a result of that support.

Community Need

Students from high-income households (71%) are more than twice as likely to graduate from college as their peers from low-income households (32%). And yet, a college degree is the surest path out of poverty. Expanding access to higher education is a necessary step toward building an economy that works for everyone in Minnesota. **With a college degree, probability of employment is 24% higher.** Degree holders earn 134% more annually, roughly \$25,000. College completion also has a deep impact on the vitality of under-resourced communities.

Proven Results

College Possible has been successful in closing the opportunity gap for systemically excluded students: Over 80% of participants earn admission to college, and they graduate at a rate exceeding that of students from low-income households nationwide. **Overall, the students we serve are three times more likely to earn college degrees than their peers from low-income households.**

A recent longitudinal study found that **College Possible graduates have a 98% employment rate**, with 94% holding health insurance and 83% saving for retirement. Additionally, **97% of alumni who are parents found it "likely" or "very likely" that their children will be able to attend college.** Together, these data points demonstrate the efficacy of the College Possible model as well as the lasting impact of college completion.

Declining Enrollment and the SCOTUS Affirmative Action Decision

The Supreme Court's decision to repeal Affirmative Action in college admissions is expected to impact postsecondary attendance for BIPOC students at all types of institutions, from community colleges to selective four-year schools. **Experts predict this decision will lead to significant drops in enrollment and graduation rates in all higher education institutions for BIPOC people, who make up the vast majority of students served by College Possible.** Data from the nine states where affirmative action was banned before the SCOTUS' ruling suggest we could see a return to 1960s enrollment levels, when 90% of college students were white.

This exacerbates the already falling college enrollment rates for BIPOC students and students from low-income households, which have dropped twice as much as other groups since 2019.

High School Innovation

In response to student and school needs, **College Possible now offers even more options than ever for engaging with the program.** This includes increased opportunities for one-to-one coaching support as well as continued access to group workshops, and has resulted in increased student engagement and overwhelming positive stakeholder feedback.

College Innovation

College students also have increased flexibility in the way they participate in College Possible. Students needing more intensive and direct support are still able to receive it, while those successfully navigating college on their own are able to stay engaged in the program through newsletters, events and periodic text outreach. **By meeting students where they are, we are able to accommodate and serve a wider range of participants** while also better allocating resources.

Direct Student Aid

College Possible provides direct funding to college students facing emergency situations and tuition gaps that impact their ability to persist in or graduate from college. **From 2022 to 2023 we awarded more than \$318,000 to 194 students** in amounts of \$2,000 or less. Of the students receiving direct aid, 97% graduated with a degree or persisted into the next school year. As research and our own experience demonstrate, relatively small amounts of money can change entire trajectories for students from low-income backgrounds.

Career Readiness

College Possible is continuously strengthening its focus on career readiness. Because most of our students do not have access to the same social capital as their more privileged classmates, **we now provide a wide range of professional support** including alumni panels, networking events, corporate field trips, career workshops and more. It is an organizational priority that after graduating, students are prepared to transition into the workforce, build successful careers, and maximize the benefits of their education.

College Possible Minnesota Reach and Results

34

AmeriCorps members served as high school and college coaches

126

active partner high schools and colleges/universities across Minnesota

84%

of high school students who graduated on time enrolled in college within one year

91%

of first year students persisted from fall 2022 into the spring 2023 semester

5,000+

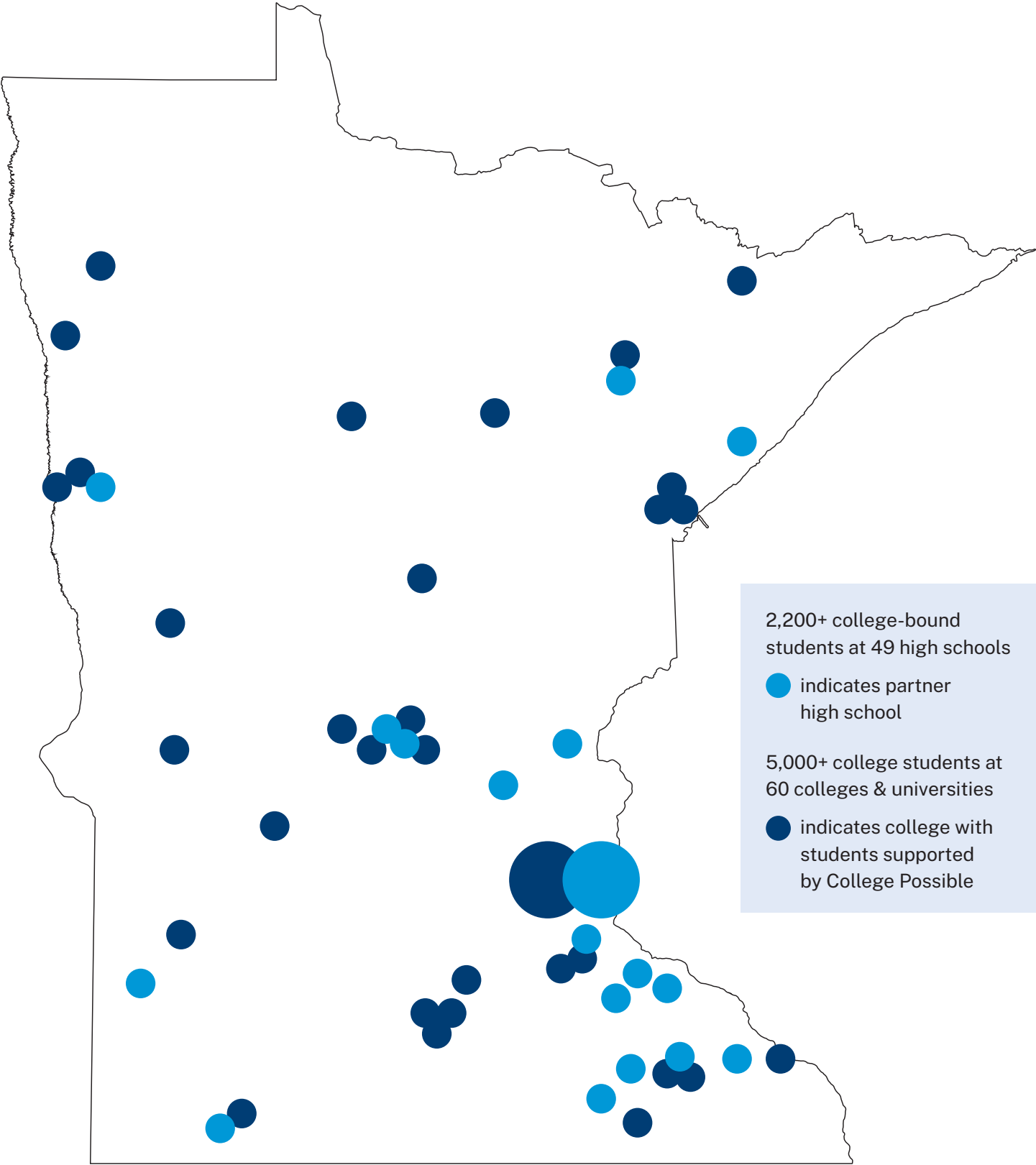
degrees earned by students since College Possible's founding in 2000



“ I want to say thank you for everything College Possible has done for me. I would not have been able to go to college and be comfortable and confident. I learned so much and I’ve told my younger siblings to be College Possible students when they become juniors in high school. ”

Ifrah,
St. Catherine University Class of 2023

College Possible Minnesota Statewide Impact in 2023



Minnesota High Schools and Colleges Attended by College Possible Students

Flagship High Schools

Central Senior High School
Champlin Park High School
Columbia Heights High School
Como Park Senior High School
Edina High School
Harding Senior High School
Highland Park Senior High School
Humboldt High School
John F. Kennedy High School
Johnson Senior High School
Minneapolis North Community
High School
Park Center Senior High School
Patrick Henry High School
Roosevelt High School
Roseville Area High School
St. Louis Park High School

Navigate High Schools

Apollo High School
Armstrong High School
Battle Lake Secondary School
Blaine High School
Blooming Prairie High School
Brooklyn Center Early College Academy
Cambridge-Isanti High School
Cannon Falls High School
Century High School
Community of Peace Academy
Coon Rapids High School
Cooper High School
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton (DGF)
High School
East Ridge High School
Eastview High School
Eden Prairie High School
Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High
Faribault High School
Farmington High School
Frazee High School
Fridley High School
Hawley High School
Hopkins High School
Lakeville North High School
Lakeville Pathways Academy

Lakeville South High School
LEAP High School
LeRoy-Ostrander Public School
Metro Schools College Prep
Moorhead High School
Mt. Iron-Buhl High School
North High School
Orono High School
Pact Charter School
Perham High School
Red Wing High School
Richfield High School
Russell Tyler Ruthton (RTR) High School
Sartell High School
Southwest High School
Spring Lake Park High School
St. Charles High School
Tech High School
Thomas Edison High School
Thomas Jefferson High School
Triton High School
Ubah Medical Academy
Washington Technology Magnet School
Wayzata High School
Worthington High School

Colleges (Located in Minnesota)

Alexandria Technical &
Community College
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Anoka Technical College
Augsburg University
Bemidji State University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College
Central Lakes College-Brainerd
Century College
College of Saint Benedict
Concordia College
Concordia University, Saint Paul
Crown College
Dakota County Technical College
Dougherty Family College
Dunwoody College of Technology
Empire Beauty School-Bloomington
Gustavus Adolphus College

Hamline University
Hennepin Technical College
Herzing University-Minneapolis
Hibbing Community College
Inver Hills Community College
Macalester College
Mesabi Range Community and
Technical College
Minneapolis College of Art and Design
Minneapolis Community and
Technical College
Minneapolis Electrical JATC
Minnesota School of Cosmetology
Minnesota State Community and
Technical College
Minnesota State University Mankato
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Minnesota West Community and
Technical College
Normandale Community College
North Central University
North Hennepin Community College
Northwestern Health Sciences
University
Pine Technical and Community College
Rasmussen University-Minnesota
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community and
Technical College
Saint Cloud Technical and
Community College
Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Saint Paul College –CTC
South Central College
Southwest Minnesota State University
St. Catherine University
St. Olaf College
The College of Saint Scholastica
University of Minnesota Crookston
University of Minnesota Duluth
University of Minnesota Morris
University of Minnesota Rochester
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
University of Northwestern
University of St. Thomas
Winona State University