California’s Economic Payoff

Investing in College Access & Completion

KEY FINDINGS

For every $1 California invests in higher education, it will receive a net return on investment of $4.50.

The state would have to increase its investment in higher education 3X before it would fail to return its original investment.

The return is double for those who COMPLETE COLLEGE - $4.80 - than for those who enter but fail to complete college - $2.40.

By entering and completing college, the average Californian will spend 4 years less in poverty, reducing the expected number of years they receive cash aid by more than 2 years.

By the time a graduate reaches 38 years old, the state’s initial investment is repaid in full.

Past graduates of UC and CSU return $12 billion annually to the state.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

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