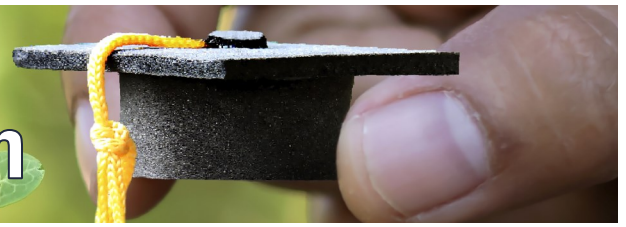


Investments in Postsecondary Education



Report highlights

June 2021

State investments in Advanced Opportunities and Opportunity Scholarships have not been clearly linked to program outcomes.

Idaho has increasingly invested in these two programs aimed at helping Idahoans obtain education, certificates, or degrees needed for employment.

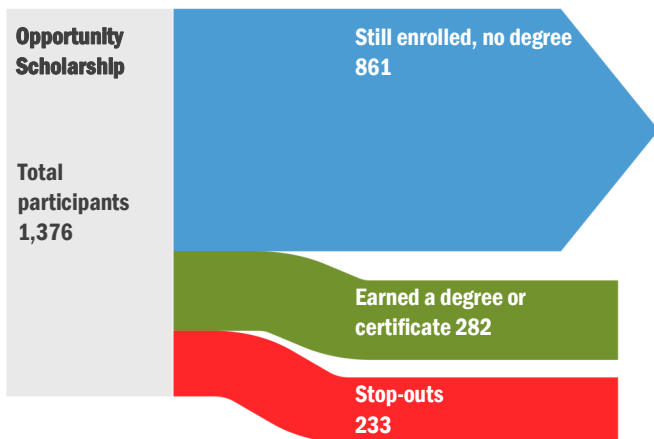
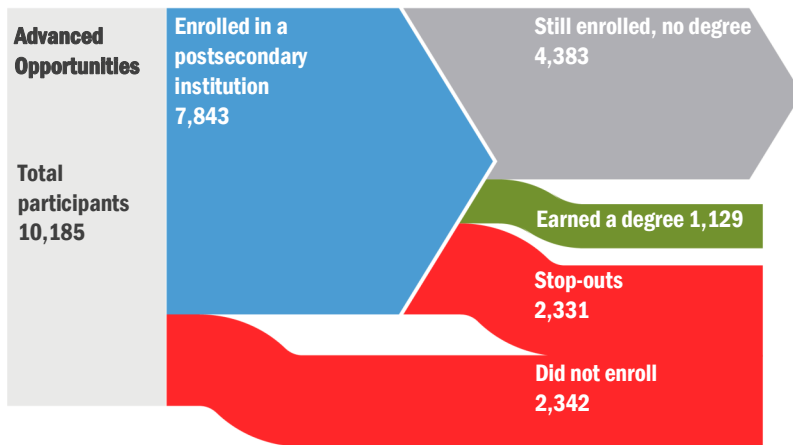
\$23 million state investment in Advanced Opportunities examinations, overload courses, and dual credits for fiscal year 2020

\$21 million total Opportunity Scholarship expenditure for fiscal year 2020

\$14 million state investment in Advanced Opportunities and Opportunity Scholarships for the 2017 high school graduating cohort

Policymakers are interested in knowing about program success, but the State Board of Education and the Department of Education have mainly tracked participation in programs and enrollment in postsecondary institutions.

Academic progress of the Advanced Opportunities and Opportunity Scholarship participants from the 2017 high school graduating cohort.



Policy considerations

Our analysis raises questions for which complete answers are not known:

- Why are some program participants not pursuing postsecondary education?
- Are students who pursue Workforce Training or Career and Technical Education obtaining relevant employment?
- Why are a significant portion of program participants stopping out?
- Are there ways for these programs to become more cost-effective?

To answer these four questions, better understand program success, and link state investments in the programs to program results, the Legislature should consider requiring both programs to expand their data collection and analysis.

View the report:
www.legislature.idaho.gov/ope/

