

what's next

the challenge

Nationally, up to 40% of students who leave high school planning to attend postsecondary do not end up enrolling by the time the fall semester starts a few months later. Experts conclude that this is large part due to students facing complex, bewildering tasks related to college enrollment – like setting up a payment plan with the financial aid office on campus – without support to navigate these decisions.

our approach

- Identify one concrete step students can complete each week and supports to help them accomplish it.
- Explicitly teach skills students need to be successful, like navigating their college's website, calling someone for information, or sending a professional email.
- Focus on connections to peers and professionals on their campus so students have a support system when they arrive.

professionals get

- A two-hour training that includes brain-based strategies for coaching students as they complete the steps and tips on helping students connect.
- Weekly videos that include how to support youth in building skills as they complete the step, concrete examples of what it looks like when the step is complete, strategies for overcoming barriers students may encounter, and how to follow up with the student

youth get

- A workbook from What's Next that includes how to complete that week's step, including step-by-step instructions to build the skills they need to do so, space to note down and document critical information they'll need later in college, and additional resources to help them navigate things like accessing textbooks and securing on-campus housing.
- Weekly text messaging gauging where they are with the step each week.