

New Jersey's Some College, No Degree Initiative Impact Report | December 2025



PRESENTED BY:

ReUp Education in partnership with
**New Jersey's Office of the Secretary
of Higher Education**

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Introduction

In 2022, New Jersey's Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) set in motion the nation's first statewide initiative to re-engage and re-enroll adults who left college without completing their education. With roughly 840,000 New Jersey residents having earned some college credit but no degree (SCND, or "stopouts"), the scale of the state's challenge required an equally ambitious solution.

OSHE's SCND initiative, in partnership with ReUp, represents a sustained, multi-year commitment to improving postsecondary education outcomes for New Jerseyans. Working together with OSHE and the 22 participating colleges and universities, ReUp created a new statewide re-enrollment marketplace that centralizes outreach and coaching for learners who want to return to college.

ReUp is pleased to present our first comprehensive report detailing the remarkable success and continued growth of this initiative. Since outreach began in 2023, we have re-enrolled more than 13,500 stopouts at institutions across New Jersey—a rate three times higher than what institutions typically achieve on their own. More than 1,400 of these learners have already completed their degree with the support of ReUp's coaches and our partner institutions, and thousands more continue on their path forward finishing their education and earning a credential.

More than 280,000 New Jersey residents have access to ReUp's re-enrollment marketplace that provides comprehensive support for returning learners across the entire student journey—from initial outreach to graduation—helping learners navigate barriers like cost, time, and uncertainty. Connecting participating institutions and learners across New Jersey through a central platform with live coaching ensures that adults returning to college have guided access to programs aligned with their career aspirations and statewide workforce needs.

At ReUp, we believe every learner deserves a pathway back. New Jersey's collaboration with ReUp has become a national model for how states can re-enroll learners at scale, improving career opportunities for students while building a pipeline of skilled workers. We appreciate OSHE's leadership in this initiative and look forward to building upon our innovative partnership in the coming years.



A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Terah Crews".

Terah Crews

CEO at ReUp Education

A message from the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education

Across New Jersey, thousands of adults started college but never earned their degree or credential. Our statewide Some College, No Degree initiative (SCND) was designed to change that by helping learners believe in their ability to return and providing them the tailored support they need to complete college.

When more residents can succeed in higher education, it not only transforms their lives but ensures residents are prepared with the right skills for the right jobs. This is crucial to New Jersey's economic prosperity. Adult learners represent one of our greatest areas of opportunity to create upward social and economic mobility that has lasting ripple effects.

As of December 2025, this initiative has empowered more than 13,500 adults to re-enroll in college and institutions have already recaptured an estimated \$74 million in tuition revenue. With degrees in hand and access to better paying jobs, we also anticipate those who have graduated being able to contribute an estimated \$128 million in added economic activity in their first year after finishing. This means we're on track to return six times the State's total investment in these individuals.

As we've worked under the Murphy Administration to expand financial aid and strengthen supports for mental health, basic needs, and other barriers to completion, we're showing what's possible when innovative statewide policy and institutions work hand-in-hand to serve all students.



A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B-K Bridges'.

Brian K. Bridges

New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education

ReUp partner institutions



1. Sussex County Community College
2. Ramapo College of New Jersey
3. William Paterson University of New Jersey
4. Passaic County Community College
5. County College of Morris
6. Montclair State University
7. Saint Elizabeth University
8. New Jersey Institute of Technology
9. Essex County College
10. Rutgers University - Newark
11. Hudson County Community College
12. New Jersey City University
13. Kean University
14. Union College of Union County, NJ
15. Middlesex College
16. Thomas Edison State University
17. Rowan College at Burlington County
18. Rowan College of South Jersey
19. Camden County College
20. Rowan University
21. Salem Community College
22. Stockton University

Executive summary

The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) has set the standard for statewide re-enrollment success. Backed by executive, legislative, and agency alignment, OSHE created a model partnership, the **Some College, No Degree (SCND) marketplace**, that has delivered exceptional results in student re-engagement and completion. With **22 institutions** participating, the statewide marketplace offers broad geographic coverage and positions New Jersey as a national leader in coordinated re-enrollment efforts.

The impact is undeniable. To date, the initiative has engaged **over 280,000 learners, leading to more than 28,000 actively exploring a return to education and over 13,500 re-enrollments**. Most importantly, **over 1,400 graduates** now have brighter social, economic, and professional futures, tangible proof of the program's transformative power.

Institutions feel this economic impact firsthand. New Jersey institutions partnering with ReUp have already realized **an estimated \$74 million in recaptured tuition revenue**, a figure projected to rise to an estimated \$183 million as each re-enrolled learner completes their degree.

This work has been nationally recognized, with **State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) naming OSHE the Agency of the Year in 2025**, spotlighting New Jersey's leadership and excellence in statewide re-enrollment efforts.

SINCE 2023



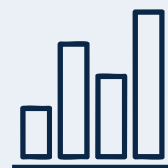
13,500+
re-enrollments



1,400+
graduations



Estimated
\$74M
recaptured
tuition¹



Estimated
\$128M
contributions
to state economy²

¹ *Recaptured tuition calculation:* The number of enrolled students at each institution through ReUp was multiplied by the average number of credits for their school type and then multiplied by that institution's cost per credit. The average number of credits to complete by school type is: 30 credits on average for AA degrees and an average of 60 credits for BA degrees.

² *Calculated based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nationally, AA holders can expect to make \$3,700 more annually and BA holders \$25,000 annually than individuals with SCND. "Education pays, 2022," Career Outlook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2023."*

The current state of re-enrollment and credential attainment in New Jersey

Approximately 840,000 New Jersey adults have earned college credit without completing a degree. Re-engaging just 5–10% of these individuals could transform thousands of lives and help New Jersey reach its goal of 65% degree or high-quality credential attainment among working-age residents.

The economic benefits of re-engaging students who have stopped out of college extend well beyond individual success; they ripple throughout the entire state. For each additional postsecondary graduate, the annual GDP of New Jersey will increase by an estimated \$137,793. Over the course of a lifetime, that contribution grows to nearly \$1.5 million per learner, representing a significant return on investment for the state. On average, each graduate will expand the tax base by \$6,590 per year.

In addition, every graduate helps generate an average of 7.1 support jobs, further strengthening local economies and uplifting their surrounding communities.¹ As more graduates enter the workforce and earn higher incomes, their increased spending generates demand for additional jobs. These individuals often advance into managerial roles, where they hire additional staff, or they establish their own businesses, contributing to both employment creation and entrepreneurial growth.

While many adults with some college credit but no degree are eager to return to higher education, they often face complex barriers that hinder their ability to re-engage and re-enroll. The most effective way to support this population is through a coordinated, student-centered strategy that addresses their unique needs and paves the way for successful re-enrollment.

¹ [New Jersey](#), National College Attainment Network

Support jobs refer to jobs created as a secondary result of the employment and economic activity of an additional college graduate.



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Every graduate helps generate an average of

7.1
supportive jobs

New Jersey's strategic partnership with ReUp Education

ReUp's New Jersey marketplace is a centralized platform that connects learners to degrees and credentials and supports future statewide talent and workforce development efforts.

The impact of the SCND marketplace extends far beyond enrollment figures, shaping long-term student success, strengthening institutional sustainability, and advancing statewide workforce goals. Through a coordinated re-enrollment strategy, ReUp creates measurable value for every stakeholder in the higher education ecosystem, from state leaders and institutions to learners themselves. By aligning efforts and applying proven strategies, this work demonstrates how intentional, system-wide engagement drives measurable outcomes and lasting change across all levels.

The impact of New Jersey's SCND marketplace



FOR THE STATE:

- **Workforce and talent development:**
Expand the pipeline of skilled workers to close statewide skills gaps.
- **Economic competitiveness:**
Reduce annual loss in sunk costs from stopout learners and recapture tuition dollars that currently leave the state through out-of-state or online enrollment.
- **Access and opportunity at scale:**
Create a coordinated, statewide infrastructure that ensures underserved learners, including those from underrepresented backgrounds, have pathways to return and complete their education.



FOR INSTITUTIONS:

- **Targeted enrollment growth:**
Gain access to a large pool of qualified adult learners, increasing enrollments sustainably in the face of declining traditional pipelines.
- **Actionable insights:**
Leverage data analytics and re-engagement reports to understand and serve adult learners more effectively.
- **Institutional innovation:**
Receive tailored recommendations to update policies, financial aid rules, and degree pathways that better meet the needs of adult learners.
- **Shared infrastructure:**
Benefit from a centralized marketplace and statewide marketing reach, lowering the individual cost and effort of outreach while amplifying collective impact.



FOR LEARNERS:

- **Personalized support:**
Gain access to one-on-one success coaching, multi-channel outreach, and customized re-enrollment pathways designed to fit life circumstances.
- **Flexible options:**
Explore programs across participating institutions through ReUp's learner-facing Wayfinder platform, with the ability to compare options side-by-side and find the best fit.
- **Barrier reduction:**
Receive guidance on overcoming financial and time constraints, including access to scholarships, debt review, and time-management strategies.
- **Career mobility:**
Achieve credentials of value that directly connect to better jobs, higher earning potential, and greater long-term stability.



"I was coaching youth soccer and trying to go to school at the same time. On top of that, having to go on duty some weekends, I was stretched. Then I saw an email from ReUp and a lightbulb went off! I have someone to turn to."

- THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY LEARNER



Key to success: creating a statewide re-enrollment marketplace

OSHE and ReUp's partnership has established the first statewide re-enrollment marketplace: a dynamic learning ecosystem designed to align education and training programs with New Jersey's most pressing workforce and talent development priorities.

Pathways are designed to support the needs of adult learners amidst the changing demands of the modern economy. Offered in multiple formats and accessible across participating institutions, these opportunities enable more New Jersey residents to return to school and complete credentials of value.

The New Jersey SCND marketplace officially launched in April 2023 with an initial cohort of 17 institutions. Another five institutions joined in a second cohort, establishing a comprehensive marketplace of 22 institutions, 11 four-year and 11 two-year, covering nearly all geographic regions of the state. ReUp worked closely with OSHE to recruit and onboard each institution, with each institution providing an initial list of stopped-out learners for outreach and coaching.

Since launch, ReUp compiled a list of 299,047 learners eligible for outreach.

ReUp analyzed this learner data and, within 90 days of launch, delivered a report to each institution with early results and key findings on topics such as stopout list demographics, GPA, years out of school, motivations and barriers to return, for better informing their policies for adult learners. To sustain this work beyond launch, ReUp continues to receive ongoing files of stopped-out learners from participating institutions, enabling continuous outreach, analysis, and tailored support.

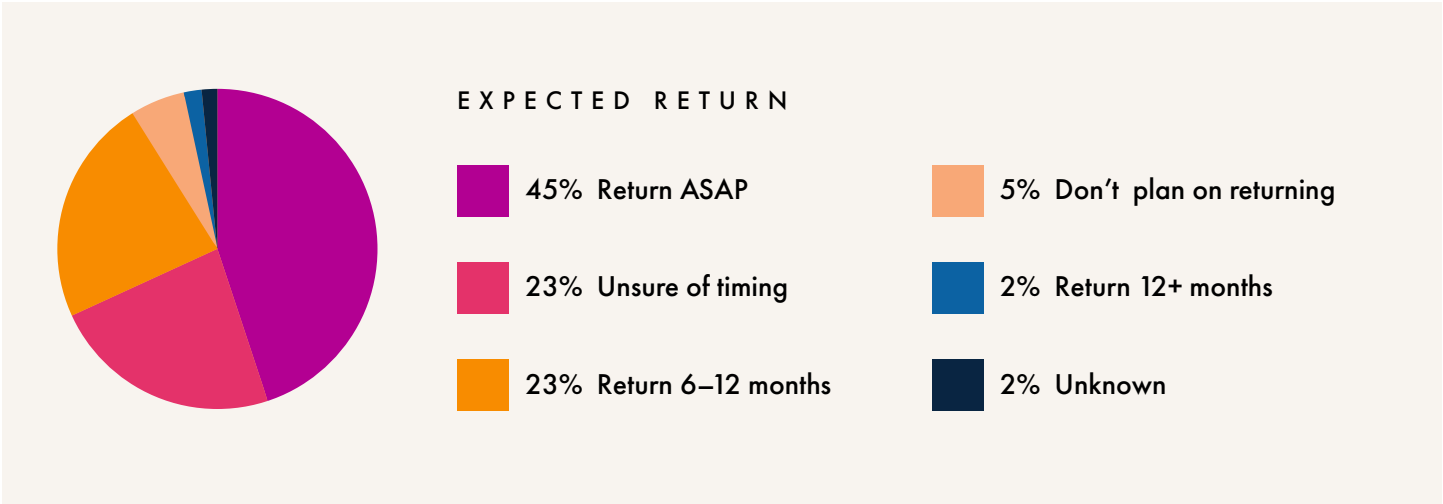
Since this work began, significant progress has been made, including re-engagement, re-enrollments, and graduations. Insights from powerful learner stories have led institutions to implement new, informed programs and policies. Overall, OSHE and ReUp have built more than a marketplace, they have created an infrastructure for long-term impact. This coordinated effort has laid a strong foundation for supporting adult learners at scale.



Achievements to date:

Timeline to return

To date, 28,000 stopped-out learners have engaged with ReUp, expressing interest in returning to school. In New Jersey, demand is strong, with 45% of engaged learners eager to return immediately and another 23% planning to return within 6–12 months.



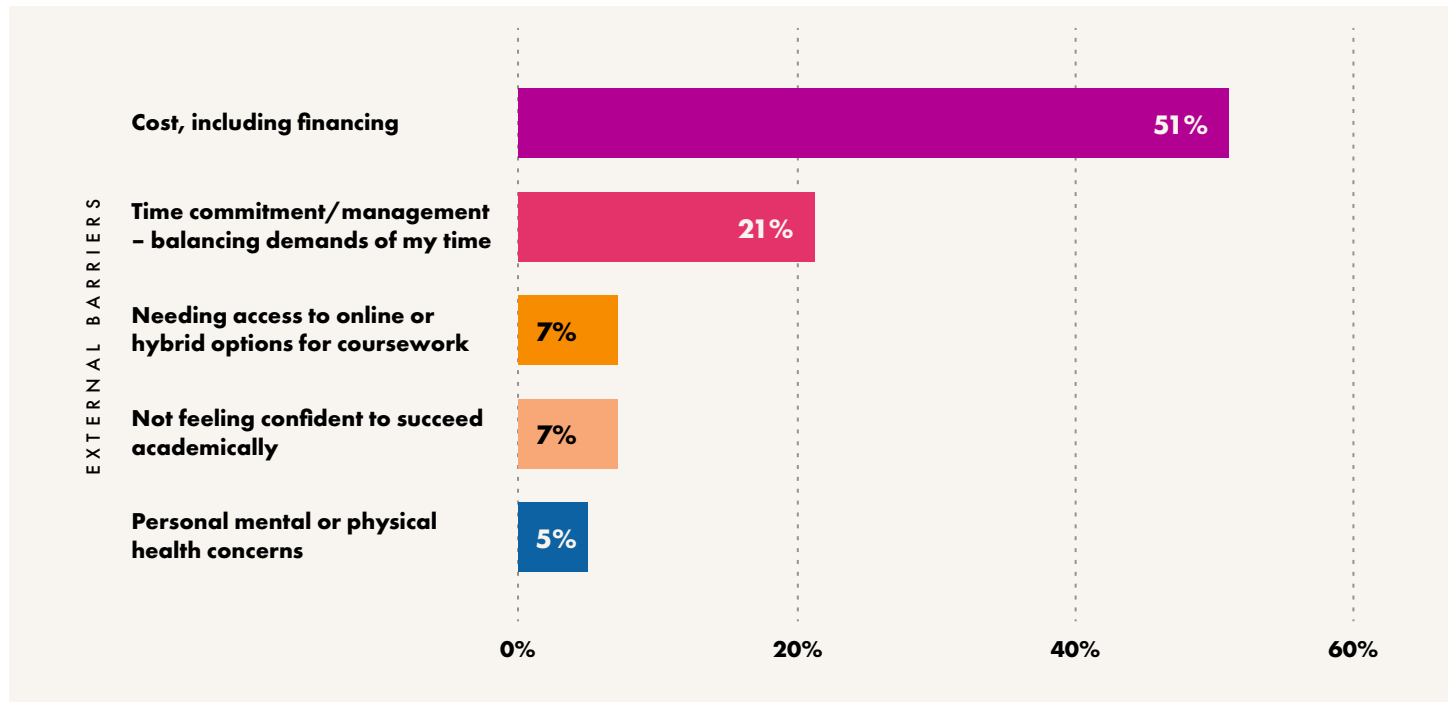
ReUp’s data also highlights the realities adult learners face as they balance work, family responsibilities, and application timelines. Roughly 43% of New Jersey learners re-enroll within 120–365 days of initial outreach, while 31% take more than a year. On average, it takes 24 touch points (texts, emails, meetings) before New Jersey SCND learners re-enroll. This demonstrates the value of New Jersey’s multi-year marketplace model, which gives learners the time and flexibility to re-engage when they are best positioned for success. While nearly half of learners express a desire to return as soon as possible, the remaining group indicate a need for additional time to evaluate personal, academic, or financial factors before making plans to re-enroll.

The data collected through the New Jersey SCND marketplace offers the state an unprecedented view into the needs, challenges, and opportunities of its stopped-out learner population. By analyzing engagement patterns, barriers to re-enrollment, and demographic trends, New Jersey institutions are better equipped to design programs, policies, and support systems that address real learner needs. These insights not only highlight the pathways most likely to lead students back to completion but also underscore the broader equity and economic impact of re-engaging adult learners statewide.

In total, over the past three years, 13,500+ learners successfully re-enrolled, with 1,400 already earning their degrees. Of these graduates, 51% earned a bachelor’s degree and 49% earned an associate’s degree.

Insights into New Jersey's stopout population:

Barriers to returning



When asked about barriers to returning to school, 51% of learners cited cost (including financing) as the biggest factor, followed by time commitment (21%).

ReUp addresses these challenges in two key ways:

- **Financial support:**

Through coaching and the ReUp Wayfinder app, learners are connected to scholarships and financial aid opportunities that reduce the financial burden of re-enrollment and support persistence.

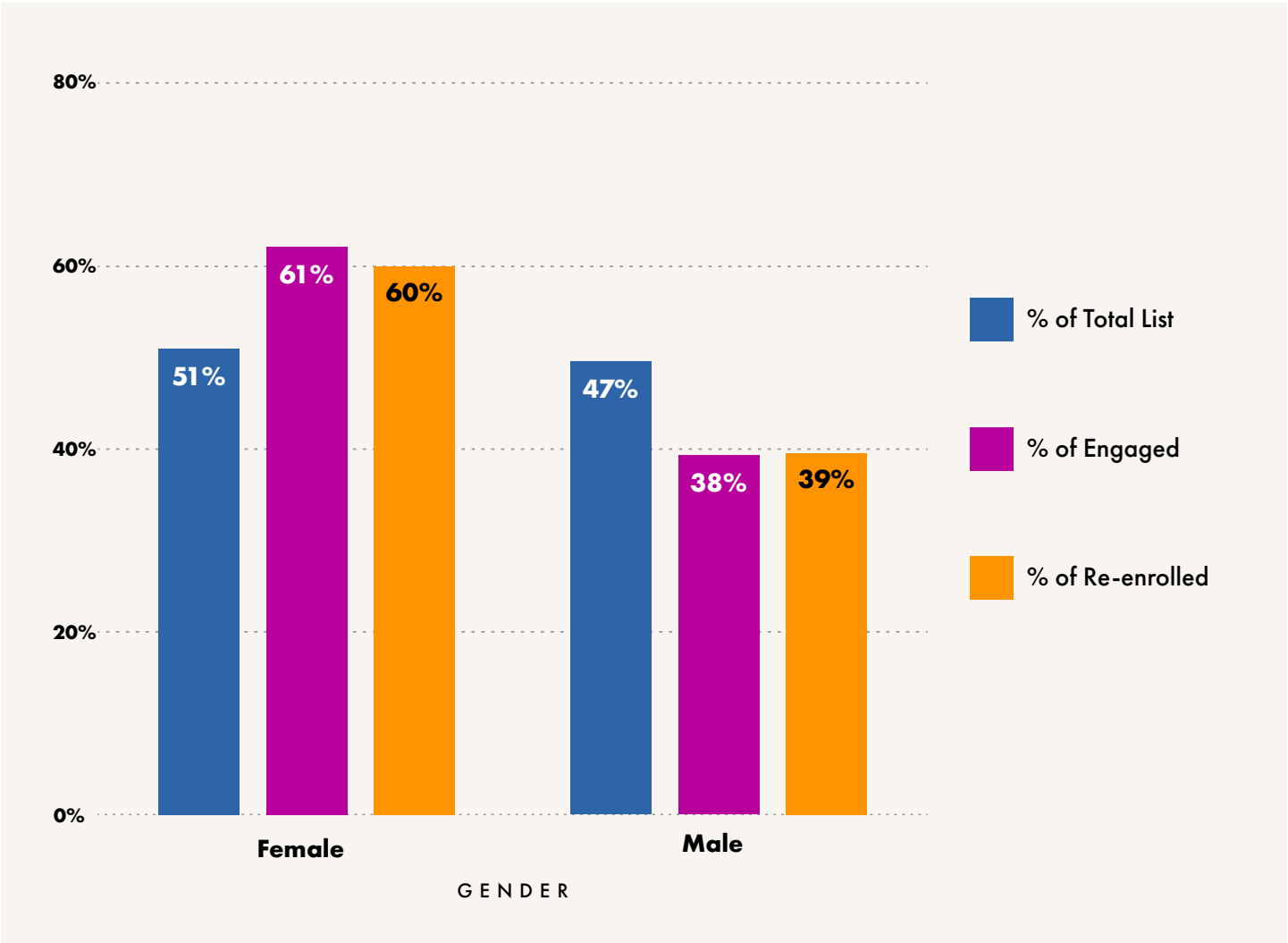
- **Time management guidance:**

Coaches work directly with learners to develop personalized time management strategies, helping them balance school, work, and personal responsibilities to stay on track.

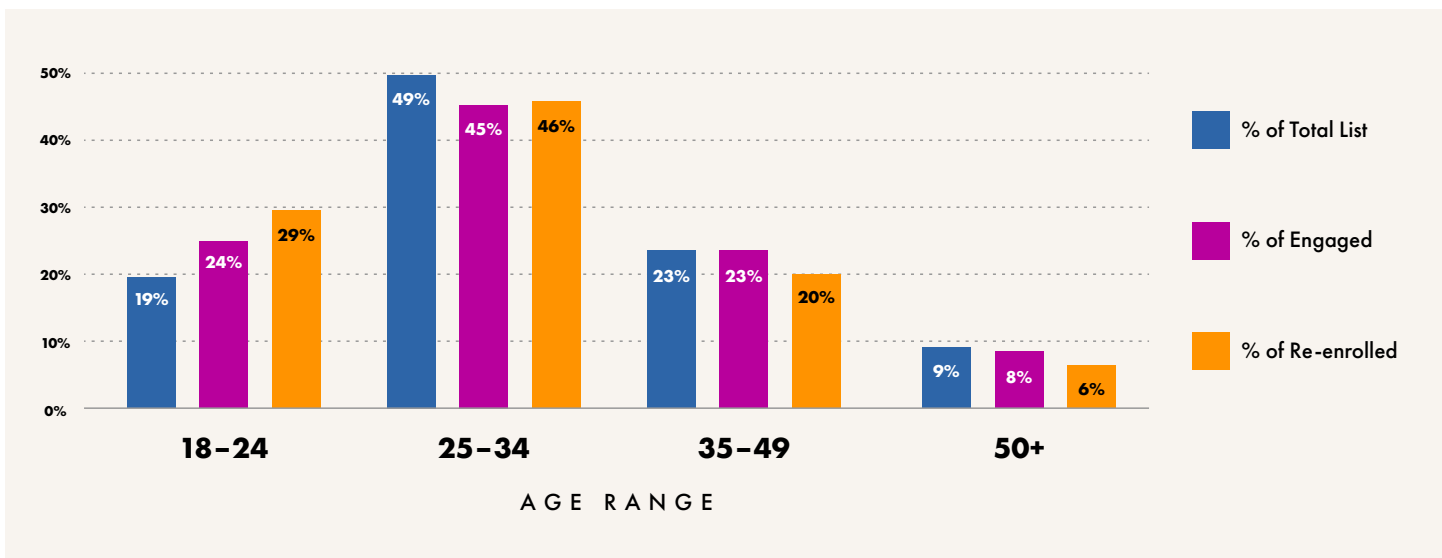


Gender

In New Jersey, women make up just over half (51%) of the SCND population, yet they account for a larger share of both engagement and re-enrollment (60%). By contrast, men represent 47% of the SCND population but only 39% of re-enrollments. Across all tracked activities (meetings, outreach, and responses), women participated in 2.43 million total activities, compared to 1.95 million by men, reflecting roughly 24.5% higher engagement among women. **This pattern reflects broader national trends in higher education, where men consistently re-enroll at lower rates than women.**



Age



Learners across age groups demonstrate varying levels of engagement with higher education re-enrollment:

- **Ages 18-24:**

Learners age 18-24 represent just 19% of the SCND population but account for 29% of all re-enrollments. Research suggests that younger learners are more likely to return to higher education because they face fewer life barriers such as financial obligations or caregiving responsibilities, remaining more closely connected to their academic momentum after high school or early college experiences.

- **Ages 25-34:**

For this group, navigating a rapidly changing workforce often serves as a powerful motivator. Returning to college is viewed as an investment in their future, helping them accelerate career growth and improve long-term quality of life.

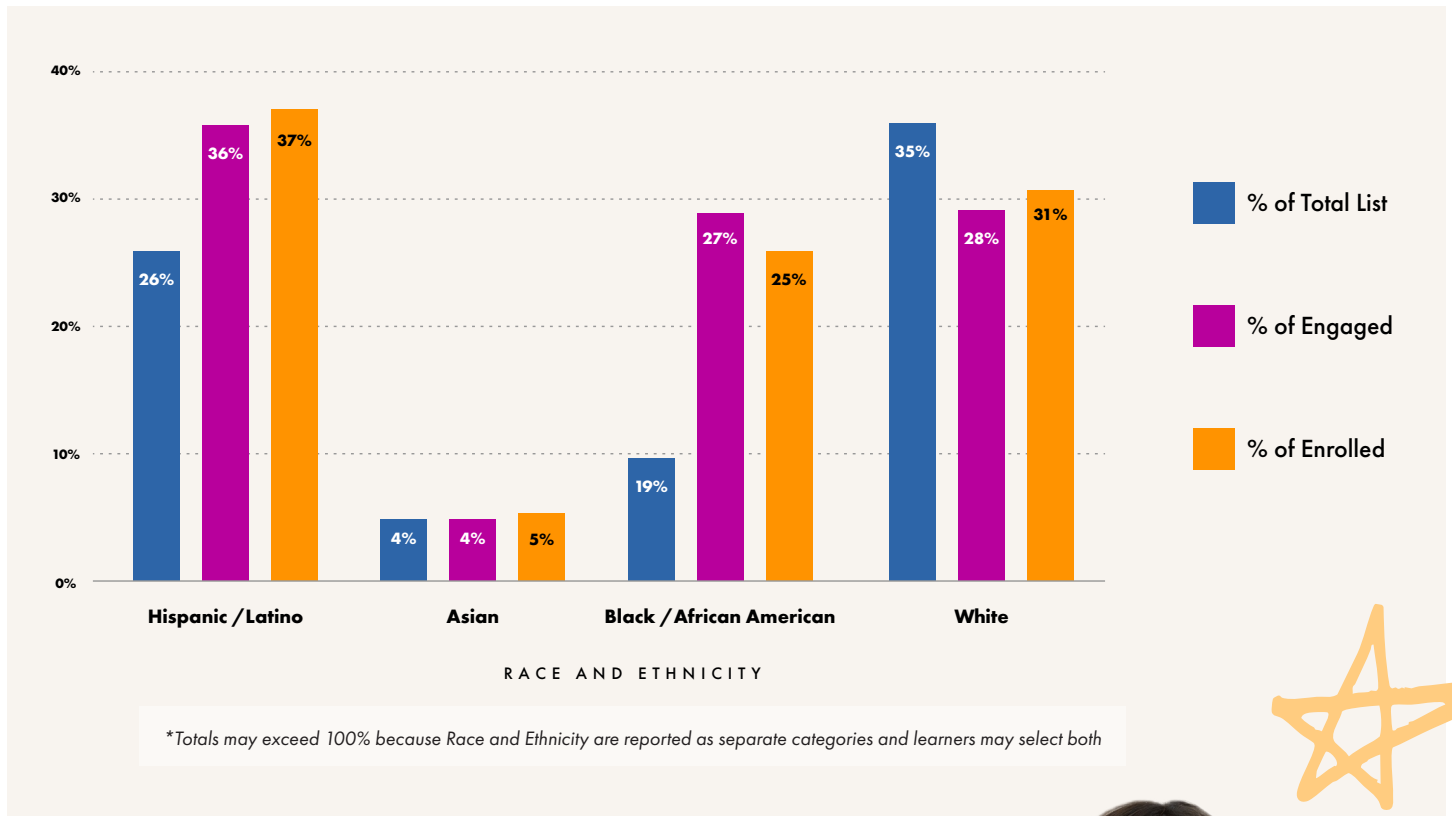
- **Ages 35-49 and 50+:**

While these groups show comparatively lower engagement rates, they continue to express meaningful interest in returning to higher education. Many face additional barriers, including financial obligations, caregiving responsibilities, and apprehension about reentering an academic environment after a long absence.



Race and ethnicity

The SCND population in New Jersey is racially and ethnically diverse, and broadly distributed across racial and ethnic groups.



Together, Hispanic, Black/African American, and Asian learners make up 48% of the SCND population, representing a significant portion of the community.

ReUp re-enrolls Hispanic and Black/African American adult learners in New Jersey at rates that exceed their share of the SCND population.

This diversity underscores the importance of tailored outreach and support strategies. Engagement approaches that resonate with one group may not fully meet the needs of another, making it critical to design communications, coaching, and resources that reflect and affirm the varied experiences and goals of learners across communities.



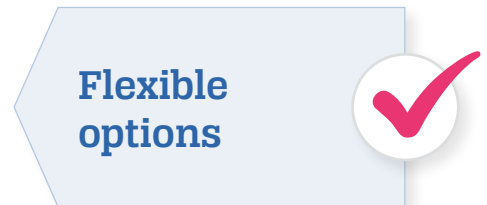
The transformative power of re-enrollment

For adult learners, the New Jersey SCND marketplace offers more than a way back to higher education; it opens doors to career growth, financial security, and long-term opportunity.



Learners receive one-on-one coaching, targeted outreach, and customized re-enrollment pathways designed around their unique needs. This approach helps build confidence and momentum as they return to school.

Through the Wayfinder platform, learners can explore programs across institutions, compare options, and choose pathways that fit their goals, families, and careers.



The initiative addresses common obstacles by providing guidance on financial aid, debt, and time management, making it easier for learners to balance education with other life responsibilities.

Completing a degree creates access to better jobs, career advancement, and long-term stability for learners and their families.



These individual successes ripple outward — strengthening communities, supporting local economies, and ensuring a stronger, more competitive New Jersey.

Learner spotlights: From outreach to re-enrollment

Motivation 1: For my family

"My family, my dad and mom, didn't graduate from middle school. I'm the first person from my family who graduated from high school and I'm the first person to go to college. I'm trying to get my degree so things can change. I mean, I want to make my mom proud of me."

– KEAN UNIVERSITY LEARNER

Motivation 2: Career comeback

"I want a career, I want stability. And right now, I don't really have that. I've wanted to go to school for a while now, I tried to go to school, but, you know, life and stuff. So I had to put that on hold. I'm getting older. And I really don't want to keep putting it on pause."

– CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE LEARNER

Motivation 3: Finishing what I started

"I've never not wanted to finish. I'm sure that's how most people are. I struggled with school most of my life just between personal family stuff and access to school itself... I'm finally at a good place where I can finish my degree."

– MIDDLESEX COLLEGE LEARNER

Learners' journeys toward advancement

When learners engage with ReUp, they complete a survey to identify their motivations, barriers, and interests related to re-enrollment. **For New Jersey learners, economic mobility emerged as a central theme.** Among engaged learners, more than 30% expressed an interest in pursuing a career change, a promotion, or an increase in their earnings. When asked what additional support they wanted from their institutions, the most common request—cited by 19% of respondents—was for guidance in identifying a clear career pathway.

Supporting SCND students to complete their education boosts their career prospects and economic stability, positively impacting entire families. The potential return on investment for these learners is significant. In 2025, New Jersey individuals with an associate's degree are expected to earn about \$6,000 more per year than those with only a high school diploma, while those with a bachelor's degree may earn roughly \$21,000 more.¹

¹ [US Career Institute](#), [ZipRecruiter](#), [ZipRecruiter](#)

New Jersey learners have **post-graduation plans:**

Christina: → "more consulting work in the nonprofit and public admin sphere."

Maria: → "working as a certified teacher."

Heather: → "I have to study a little bit more for the NCLEX [National Council Licensure Examination: a standardized exam that nursing graduates in the United States must pass to become licensed as an entry-level nurse]. After that, I think I'm going to start working, and then I'm undecided whether to go back for the bachelor's degree. I have to save up money and then take it from there."

Evonne: → "I would love to [work in] psychiatry for kids."

For learners who are still discovering their post-graduation plans, ReUp Success Coaches offer guidance and resources to help:

Success Coach: → “That’s something we can absolutely talk through. And I do actually have some resources. You can look through different job titles, different career opportunities, and it’ll tell you just a little bit more about health science. If you’re looking for a lab tech position, for example, you can search lab tech and it’ll show general pay, the degrees and certifications you typically need for this type of role, and what type of personalities work best in this role. It’s really nice you can look through some different options and see what’s out there and what feels like a good fit.”

Top pathways:

When students graduate from high-demand pathways offered through New Jersey’s SCND marketplace, the benefits extend well beyond individual achievement to strengthen the state’s overall economy. By earning credentials that align with workforce needs, graduates fill critical skills gaps, expand the pool of qualified talent, and enhance New Jersey’s long-term economic competitiveness. Each completed degree or credential not only improves career mobility and earning potential for the learner, but also contributes to higher workforce participation, increased tax revenues, and reduced reliance on public assistance. In this way, the marketplace acts as both an engine for personal advancement and a catalyst for sustained statewide growth.

TOP GRADUATE PATHWAYS ¹	
2-YEAR	4-YEAR
Health Professions and Related Programs	Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	Health Professions and Related Programs
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities	Engineering/Engineering-Related Technologies/Technicians
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities
Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Related Protective Services	Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services

¹ Pathways are derived from CIP codes.

Supporting institutional success

ReUp assigns a dedicated Director of Partner Success to each institution, serving as a consistent point of contact who works closely with campus leadership. Directors lead monthly partnership calls with institutional staff, providing policy consultations, best-practice guidance, and actionable strategies to drive both enrollment and persistence. Partners also benefit from regular enrollment reporting and new data insights, empowering them to make informed decisions.

While staff capacity, funding constraints, and competing priorities can slow large-scale institutional change, many New Jersey institutions have made notable strides in reducing barriers for adult learners returning to campus.

Below are just a few examples from across the state:



Essex County College

Re-engaging learners through Project Re-Enroll

Inspired by ReUp's work, Essex County College launched Project Re-Enroll, an initiative designed to welcome back students who had previously been academically dismissed. To support this effort, the college planned a letter and email outreach campaign and sought ReUp's expertise to ensure the communications were tailored to this unique population of learners. ReUp partnered with the institution by discussing effective strategies, reviewing draft materials, and providing targeted recommendations. As a result of these personalized invitations sent over the summer (2025), 103 learners have already re-enrolled, demonstrating the impact of thoughtful, student-centered communication in reopening pathways to education and opportunity. Dr. Augustine Boakye, president states "Project Re-Enroll reflects what Essex County College stands for — access, opportunity, and second chances. Every student deserves the chance to finish what they started, and I'm proud that our team's efforts have helped so many learners return and thrive."



Saint Elizabeth University

Building pathways for adult learner persistence

ReUp partnered with SEU's Persistence Team to host a workshop on Persistence and Proactive Adult Intervention, aimed at deepening the institution's understanding of its adult learner population. The session introduced best practices for building meaningful connections with adult learners and explored proactive interventions tailored to SEU's unique context. As a result, SEU was inspired to pursue new opportunities, expanding pathways and partnerships that better support learners. SEU is now developing a comprehensive communication plan and adapting institutional content to better serve and engage returning adult learners, laying the groundwork for stronger persistence and student success.



Hudson County Community College

Empowering adult learners through the Hudson Scholars Program

A strong champion of adult learners, Hudson County Community College (HCCC) piloted the Restart Scholars Program in 2023 to support adult learners in their efforts to persist to completion. The program, based on HCCC's Hudson Scholars program, provides a customized experience and a dedicated advisor to assist returning learners stay on track and progress toward their educational goals. The learner-to-advisor ratio is reduced to 150 to 1, allowing advisors to engage more proactively and deeply. The school also offers monetary stipends for completing future-focused tasks and motivational milestones to incentivize continued enrollment from semester to semester. Based on the success of the Restart Scholars pilot, lessons learned will be incorporated as adult learners are included in the larger Hudson Scholars program.



Ramapo College of New Jersey

Strengthening adult learner success through proactive retention initiatives

Ramapo College of New Jersey appointed an Advising Team Lead to direct the institution's first Persistence Initiative, a strategic effort designed to strengthen returning student retention and success. The appointed lead served as the primary point of contact for the initiative, overseeing the development and implementation of tailored communications for adult learners resuming their enrollment at the College. This approach emphasized proactive and individualized outreach to support student engagement and academic continuity for this population.

As a direct outcome of these efforts, Ramapo College recorded a 60% increase in retaining returning learners from Summer 2025 to Fall 2025, underscoring the effectiveness of data-driven student success strategies and the institution's commitment to supporting diverse learner populations.



UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ

Elevating learner voices to drive re-engagement

UCNJ Union College of Union County, NJ wanted to better understand the real challenges that their adult learners face in returning to school. Re-Up partnered with them to surface authentic "barrier quotes" – direct reflections from stopped-out learners describing the struggles of balancing work, family, and finances with the dream of finishing a degree. Leveraging these insights into learner challenges, UCNJ's Career Services department in collaboration with Admissions embedded the quotes directly into their Pathway for Adult Learners (PALs) Orientation. At one point, Career Services facilitators asked attendees to raise their hands if they had ever felt the same way as the learners reflected on the quotes. Nearly every hand went up! These student reactions to the quotes further affirmed that the tailored orientation for the Adult Learners created a safe space to voice their fears and receive encouragement.

The moment was powerful. Learners saw their own struggles reflected in others' voices, and the college signaled that vulnerability was not only accepted but understood. According to UCNJ, this openness helped spark meaningful dialogue both internally and externally, uncovering new pathways for learners to move forward. The results speak for themselves: UCNJ reported more than 400 new fall enrollments, far surpassing historical trends. By shining a light on learner voices, not just their successes, but also their barriers, Union created an environment of empathy, connection, and action.

ReUp Case Studies

ReUp published two New Jersey case studies highlighting innovative support for adult learners:

- [At County College of Morris](#), learner-first strategies are transforming student engagement.
- [At Thomas Edison State University](#), tailored policies and proactive coaching are driving persistence and success.



"It was a lot to handle but I did it, and I even got an A- after [taking care of a toddler, giving birth, and finishing a college class]. It feels amazing! I'm so happy and proud to be done and looking forward to my next steps. Thank you [ReUp] so much for all of your support and working with me to get it done."

- NEW JERSEY LEARNER



In the spotlight: state and national recognition

The success of New Jersey's Some College, No Degree initiative has generated significant attention at both the state and national level. From prestigious recognition by State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) to in-depth coverage in outlets such as Newsweek, Higher Ed Dive, and NJ.com, the program's impact and innovation have been widely celebrated. This growing body of press underscores the credibility of OSHE and ReUp's partnership, highlights the progress of participating institutions, and amplifies New Jersey's leadership in advancing student success.

Highlight



**SHEEO
Exceptional
Agency Award**
New Jersey Office
of the Secretary
of Higher Education
July 15, 2025

The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education has been honored with the 2025 SHEEO Exceptional Agency Award, recognizing its innovative leadership in advancing student success through its Some College, No Degree Initiative, in partnership with ReUp Education.

Press coverage

"Think it's too late and pricey to go back to school? 17 N.J. schools disagree"

[NJ.com](#) • Mar 3, 2023

"Middlesex College Participates In 'Some College, No Degree' State-Wide Initiative to Get NJ Students Back on Track Toward Degrees"

[Middlesex College](#) • Mar 24, 2023

"Higher Education Expert: The Untapped Potential of the Millions of Americans with Some College, No Degree"

[Newsweek](#) • Dec 5, 2023

"New Jersey City University Awarded \$150,000 Grant to Empower 'Some College, No Degree Program' Plan"

[New Jersey City University](#) • Feb 23, 2024

"New Jersey initiative brings back over 8,600 stopped-out students"

[Higher Ed Dive](#) • Nov 13, 2024

"Left college? This NJ program helps you re-enroll and finish"

[New Jersey Herald](#), [North Jersey](#) • Nov 15, 2024

"NJ's Some College, No Degree initiative makes strides for intermittent students"

[NJBIZ](#) • Nov 18, 2024

"Partnered with the state, Rowan re-enrolls 'stopped out' students for degree completion"

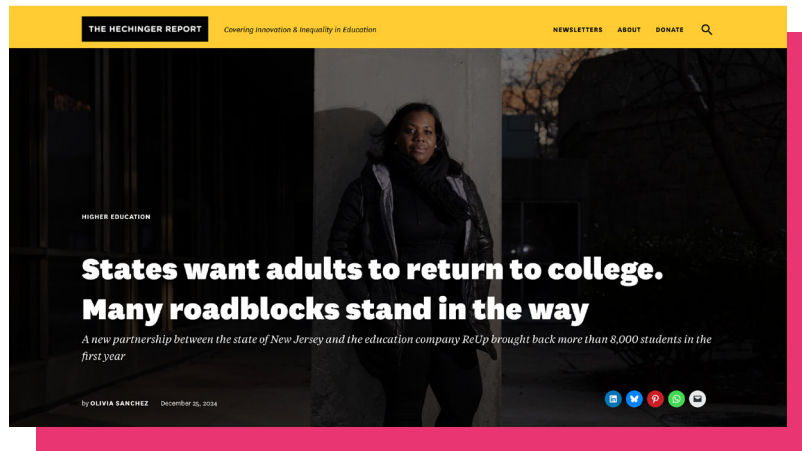
[Rowan University](#) • Jan 23, 2025

Featured story

"States want adults to return to college. Many roadblocks stand in the way"

[The Hechinger Report](#),
[New Jersey Spotlight News](#)

Dec 18, 2024



As numerous as they are, adults with some college but no credential have no group or organization that represents them, and ReUp is striving to fill that role by working with state leaders and legislators to re-engage this population.

Maronda [a stopped out learner in New Jersey] knows how hard it can be to find a way back to college after stopping out. For years she tried, squeezing in phone calls between shifts at part-time jobs and filling out paperwork late at night, all while helping care for her family.

That changed when she connected with Jimmy Wyatt, a senior success coach at ReUp. Wyatt didn't make calls for her, but he stood beside her — helping her sort through a complicated debt and find scholarships and grants to pay it down. For Maronda, his support meant more than advice; it meant finally having someone in her corner as she tried again.

States want adults to return to college, but many roadblocks stand in the way, and as Maronda's story shows, ReUp is helping to clear those barriers by offering the support and advocacy that learners need to find their way back.

Read more at [The Hechinger Report](#) or [New Jersey Spotlight News](#).

Aligning education and workforce for New Jersey's future

New Jersey's re-enrollment marketplace is now a proven, scalable model that other states can emulate. The year ahead presents an opportunity not only to sustain this momentum but also to strategically broaden its reach and impact.

Recommendations for maintaining and accelerating New Jersey's success:

- Maintain growth by continuing to identify and re-engage stopout learners, tracking outcomes, and using those insights to refine and implement the most impactful practices.
- Expand program support to enable broader geographic coverage by increasing institutional participation and reaching additional learner populations.
- Innovate by deepening the connection between higher education and workforce development.

With the partnership well established, the next phase will focus on aligning re-enrollment and persistence efforts with workforce development priorities to ensure that returning learners not only complete their education but also contribute directly to New Jersey's long-term talent pipeline and economic growth. By sustaining momentum and building new workforce partnerships, the marketplace can become a powerful driver of both learner success and the state's economic vitality.

OSHE's leadership has already demonstrated the transformative impact of this model. Continued investment in adult learner re-engagement will allow New Jersey to embed innovation, expand opportunity, and solidify its position as the national benchmark for higher education completion and workforce readiness.

About ReUp Education

ReUp's mission isn't just about degree completion—it's about unlocking economic opportunity.

By partnering with institutions and state governments, ReUp makes statewide collaboration possible. Our scalable solutions allow more adults to overcome barriers, find their footing in higher education, and ultimately unlock better job opportunities.

The opportunity for growth is enormous. With millions of SCND learners ready to re-engage, states have the chance to lead bold, impactful initiatives. When adults return to college, they gain more than credentials—they gain pathways to better jobs, higher earning potential, and increased confidence. For states, the payoff extends far beyond boosted enrollment numbers. It's an investment in the workforce of the future and the health of their local economies.

Today, ReUp partners with more than 140 colleges and universities across 33 states to re-enroll learners who never completed college. Since its founding 10 years ago, ReUp has re-enrolled more than 67,000 adult learners—including 50,000 in just the past three years—generating an additional \$275 million in revenue for our partner institutions. More than 1.8 million stopout learners nationwide now have access to ReUp's re-enrollment services and real live coaches.

Our results help close the gap on college attainment goals and improve statewide efforts to increase the talent pipeline of residents with the skills and credentials to meet workforce needs across all sectors of the economy.

To learn more about ReUp's education and workforce efforts, visit reupeducation.com.



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