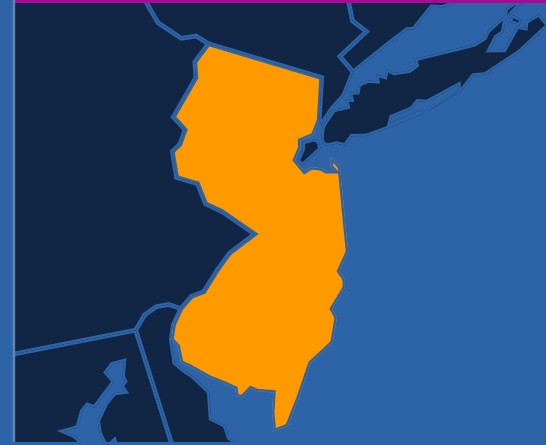


# New Jersey's **Some College, No Degree:** 2026 Spring Insights



The New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), in partnership with ReUp Education, has implemented a statewide re-enrollment marketplace through the Some College, No Degree (SCND) initiative. The marketplace includes 22 participating institutions, providing broad geographic coverage and establishing a coordinated, statewide approach to re-enrollment that supports adult learners returning to college and strengthens New Jersey's talent pipeline.

Approximately 840,000 New Jersey adults have stopped out after earning some college credit but before completing a degree, representing a significant population of residents who have yet to realize a return on their education in the workforce. Re-engaging just 5–10% of this population would return thousands to higher education and increase postsecondary credential attainment among working-age residents. The initiative directly connects stopout learners to clear education pathways that lead to re-enrollment, completion, and workforce advancement.

*"In New Jersey, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education is committed to empowering adult learners and bridging the skills gap. Our focus is on creating clear pathways for reskilling, upskilling, and career advancement knowing that a degree delivers a powerful return on investment."*  
— Acting Secretary Margo Chaly

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND RE-ENROLLMENTS

**~15,700**

students have re-enrolled since April 2023 as a result of the New Jersey and ReUp initiative<sup>1</sup>

**~1,900**

have graduated<sup>1</sup>

**~\$147m**

in additional expected contributions to the state economy through taxes and consumer spending in first year after graduation<sup>2</sup>

## Learner Spotlight

Listen to Meredith Garland's story on NPR's [All Things Considered](#). After pausing her education due to work and health, she re-enrolled at Ramapo College of New Jersey to pursue environmental studies with support from a ReUp Education coach.

## Learner Insights

Some College, No Degree learners are exceptionally well-prepared for higher education. They already possess college credits and can more swiftly obtain credentials, making them uniquely equipped to quickly address and fill critical workforce gaps.

- **56% of engaged learners are motivated to return for career advancement** and to create a better life.
- The majority of learners remain in good academic standing: **64% of stopout learners left college with a GPA above 2.0**, supporting an easier return.
- **46% of re-enrolled learners are 25-35** as they often view returning as an investment in their career.

When institutions integrate career exploration and employment pathways into their strategies, they can improve student persistence, boost completion rates, and expand economic mobility.



### INSTITUTION SPOTLIGHT

## Passaic County Community College

Passaic County Community College (PCCC) is strengthening New Jersey's workforce pipeline through its Passaic Ramapo Onramp for Student Persistence and Employment Readiness (PROSPER) Program, connecting students to academic pathways, leadership development, and paid work experiences. Focused on first-generation, adult, and underrepresented learners, PROSPER expands access and removes barriers.

Key program components include:

- Paid micro-internships (25–100 hours): 100 opportunities across 30+ New Jersey employers, allowing students to gain experience while earning income
- Leadership development: Delivered with Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement (HISPA), including mentorship, coaching, and corporate exposure with partners like Verizon and Prudential

Students are supported by Opportunity Coaches and Peer Ambassadors, with no GPA barriers to participation, ensuring inclusive engagement.

Since October 2025, 180 students have participated across internships, leadership programs, and transfer pathways, strengthening connections between education and industry statewide.

## Top pursued programs for Graduates<sup>1</sup>

Liberal arts/general studies  
Business administration  
Nursing  
Computer and information sciences  
Criminal justice (Associate Degree Graduates)  
Psychology (Bachelor Degree Graduates)



Currently, I am a Pre-K teacher of eight years with a teaching certification. I would like to finally finish my associate degree in Biology so that I may transfer to NJIT or Rutgers and have a B.S. in biology. Once I have my degree, I will be able to truly do what I want and love, teach STEM.

— MIDDLESEX COLLEGE LEARNER

1. ReUp Education Analytics, New Jersey June 2026

2. Calculated based on 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.