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NSWERS
NOVEL
RESEARCH
FINDINGS

IN KEY HIGH-SKILL FIELDS, NEBRASKA IS MEETING ONLY A FRACTION OF WORKFORCE DEMAND.

The NSWERS Employment Gap Brief, released on January 21, revealed that Nebraska's unmet workforce demand is not evenly distributed. In 2021, **unmet demand exceeded 90% for some critical occupations**, including HVAC technicians and accountants, and remained above 70% for roles such as licensed practical nurses and software developers. These findings help sharpen where education-to-workforce alignment efforts can have the greatest impact.

To access the full report, please visit:
[insights.nswers.org/briefs/2024-brief-on-the-employment-gap-in-nebraska.](https://insights.nswers.org/briefs/2024-brief-on-the-employment-gap-in-nebraska)



DUAL ENROLLMENT HAS MOVED FROM THE MARGINS TO THE MAINSTREAM.

NSWERS 2025 Dual Enrollment Special Report, released on April 2, showed participation **rising from 26% of public high school graduates in 2016 to 33% in 2022**. Students are not only participating more frequently but completing more coursework, averaging over 12 semester credit hours. Participation was associated with higher college enrollment and a 13-percentage-point increase in postsecondary credential attainment within six years, underscoring its role as a durable pathway to college success.

To access the report, and other materials, please visit:
insights.nswers.org/special-report/2025-dual-enrollment.





CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IS NOT JUST A SHORT-TERM DISRUPTION.

The NSWERS Brief on Chronic Absenteeism, released on October 7, showed that chronic absenteeism in Nebraska **increased from about 10% before the pandemic to nearly 24%** immediately afterward and has since remained above 20% statewide. Chronically absent

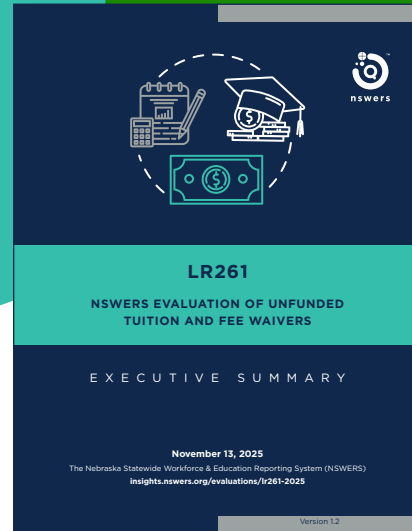
students show substantially lower academic performance, are far less likely to graduate from high school on time, and are much less likely to enroll in postsecondary education, with college-going rates of 48.7% compared to 70.9% for typically attending peers.

To access the full report, please visit:

insights.nswers.org/briefs/2025-chronic-absenteeism-brief.



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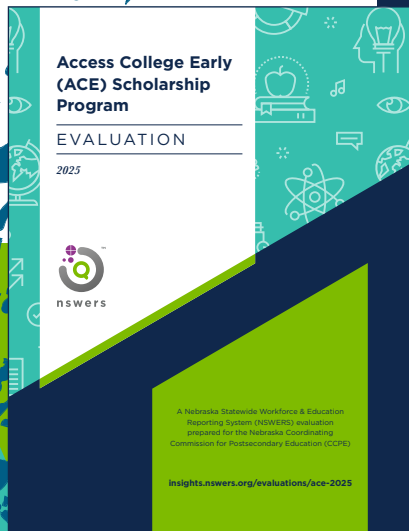


Through the LR261 Evaluation, released on November 13, NSWERS quantified statewide exposure that had not previously been measured. Between 2015 and 2025, Nebraska institutions waived \$50.1 million in tuition and fees for 5,154 students, with annual amounts growing from \$2.1 million to \$10.8 million. Importantly, the “net new” analyses suggest that **roughly 85% of examined recipients were already likely to enroll in college absent the waiver**, indicating that much of the growth represents cost shifting rather than expanded access, with mixed evidence of workforce impact.

To access the report, and other materials, please visit:

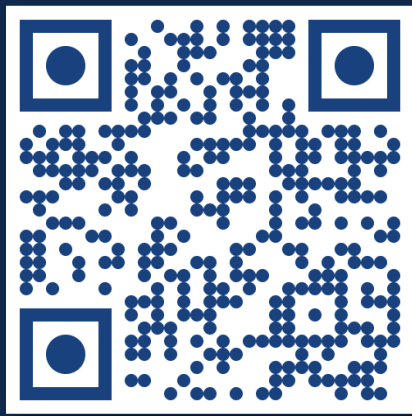
[insights.nswers.org/
evaluations/lr261-2025](https://insights.nswers.org/evaluations/lr261-2025).

ACE DELIVERS MORE THAN ACCESS: STRONGER PERSISTENCE AND FASTER COMPLETION.



The ACE Scholarship Evaluation, released on December 16, demonstrated that ACE participation is associated with **meaningful gains well beyond initial access**. After accounting for comparable peers, ACE participants showed higher college enrollment, stronger persistence, higher completion rates, and faster time to credential. Among community college students, ACE participants completed credentials roughly three quarters sooner, highlighting the program's potential to accelerate the production of credentialed talent.

To access the report, and other ACE products, please visit:
insights.nswers.org/evaluations/ace-2025.



iNSIGHTS

To view NSWERS' public products, please visit:
insights.nswers.org.

insights offers all Nebraskans an accessible window into statewide education and workforce trends through:

- Interactive charts, graphs, and maps with drill-down capabilities
- Downloadable data tables and summaries for local analysis
- Topic-focused data stories—such as timely employment and industry placement—that connect data to real-world questions and policy discussions



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