

Country Roads Take Me... To College: Meeting the Unique Needs of Rural Students

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Welcome!



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Questions & Conversation

- Submit your questions in the chat box
- Share on social media

Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
#FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording

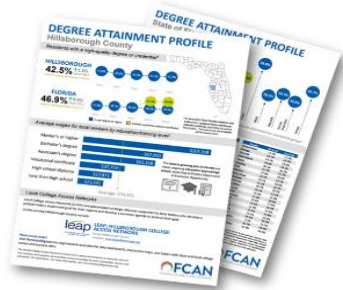


Florida College
Access Network is
the heart of a
movement to ensure
today's students
are prepared for
tomorrow's jobs.

Our mission: To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career preparation, access, and completion for all students

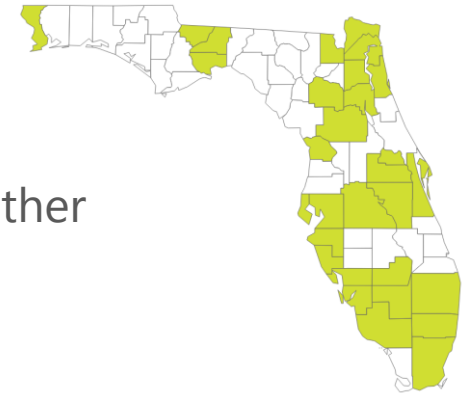
Our vision: At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025

FCAN's Work



Research and Data FCAN publishes research and data on evidence-based practices and policy opportunities to strengthen Florida's talent pool.

Local college access networks (LCANs) LCANs represent 82% of the state's population. These organizations are made up of community leaders who come together to create solutions and partnerships to support local talent development.



**COLLEGE
READY
FLORIDA**

Statewide Initiatives FCAN coordinates 4 College Ready Florida initiatives that support students in continuing their education after high school.

Introduction

Snapshot: Rural Students in Florida

	Florida	US
% of schools that are rural	13.1%	28.5%
% of students that live in rural communities	5.5%	15.4%
Number of rural students	154,538	95,965 (state average)
% of rural school-age students in poverty	19.3%	15.4%
Rural diversity index	47.2%	31.9%
Estimated graduation rate in rural districts	80.9%	88.7%
% rural mobility	12.9%	10.7%

Source: *Why Rural Matters 2018-2019*
November 2019

Snapshot: Rural Students in Florida

College Readiness Indicators	Florida	US
% rural Juniors and Seniors in dual enrollment (males)	11.7%	20.1%
% rural Juniors and Seniors in dual enrollment (females)	18.5%	26.1%
% rural Juniors and Seniors passing at least 1 AP exam	18.4%	9.5%
% rural Juniors and Seniors who took the ACT or SAT	56.8%	46.5%

Source: *Why Rural Matters 2018-2019*
November 2019



Partners for Education's Model

Rural is Important

- More than one in four of America's public schools are rural.
- More than 8.9 million students attend rural schools.
- Nearly half of rural students are from low-income families.
- One in four rural students are students of color.

From "Why Rural Matters 2015-2016" by the Education Trust

Rural is Often Forgotten

- 7 cents on every philanthropic dollar invested in rural
- Federal policies often have an unconscious rural bias
- Lack of evidence based or research informed practices from rural places
- National perception that rural areas lack capacity and best practices

To increase rural postsecondary attainment we must increase access

Access to Qualified Teachers and Rigorous Courses

Access to Out of School Learning with Transportation

Access to College Campuses and College Courses

Access to a Community Wide College Going Culture

Access to jobs across multiple pathways

Access to Broadband

[POLL QUESTION] Which access issue is most critical in your rural communities?

At Partners for Education we focus our direct work, learning, and impact in **Appalachia.**

We are supporting **partners and networks nationally** to implement proven practices that help rural students achieve equitable college outcomes.

All Students Succeed

We define success as earning a 2- or 4-year degree because we know this is the surest path to leading a healthy, fulfilled, and choice-filled life



**2- or 4-year
degree**



Healthy

Fulfilled

Choice-filled

Partners for Education addresses three barriers



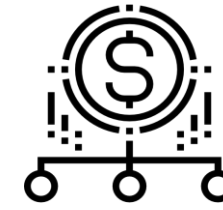
Programming Gaps

Students in Appalachian communities have limited access to high quality programs to meet their diverse needs, from cradle to career



Capacity Constraints

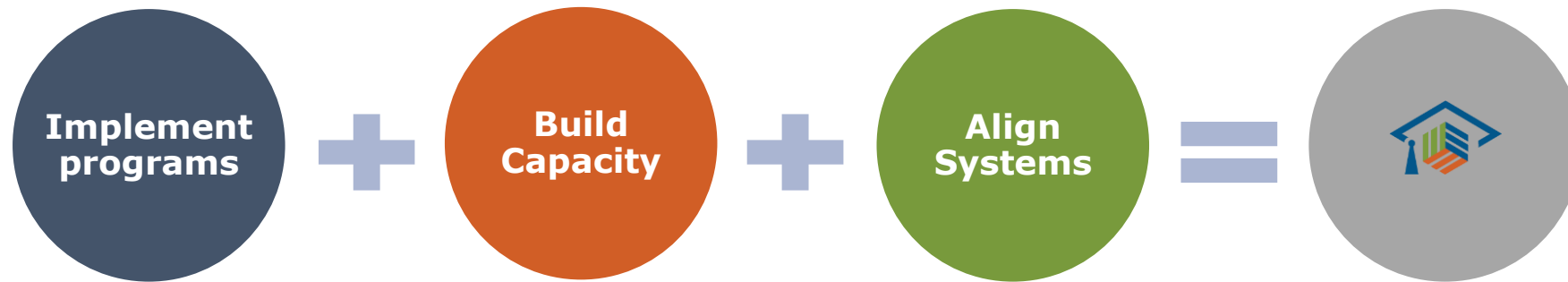
Schools and communities lack access to the tools, techniques, and supports needed to tackle the challenges students and families face



Systems Misalignment

Sectors, systems, and funding are not aligned to meet the needs of our communities

Partners for Education is a place based, anchor institution

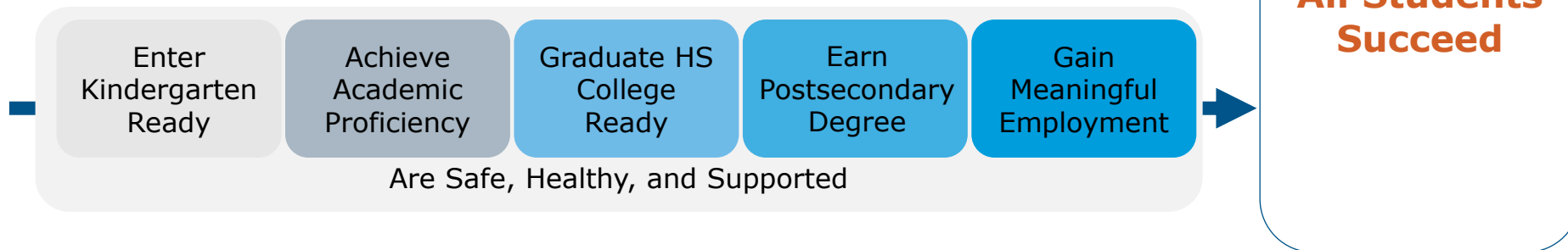


"In rural contexts, we don't have the luxury of doing one thing- we have to do all things"

-Dreema Gentry, Executive Director of Partners for Education

We take a cradle-to-career approach

We ensure young people have access to quality programs and support community efforts so that all students...



Partners for Education Impact

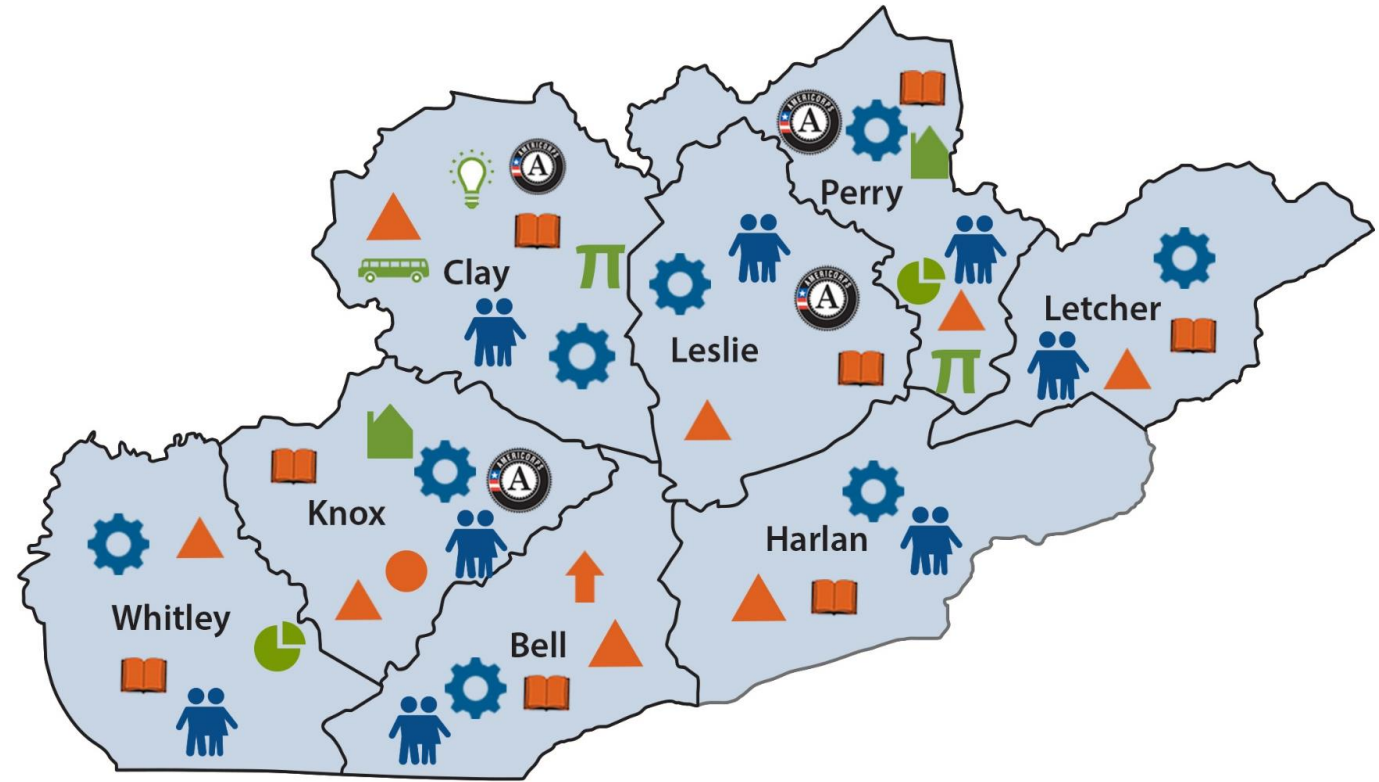
We serve the majority of students in our places

For example, in our 8 county Promise Zone we serve ...

29%
Of all Learners in Early Childhood

68%
Of all elementary and middle school students

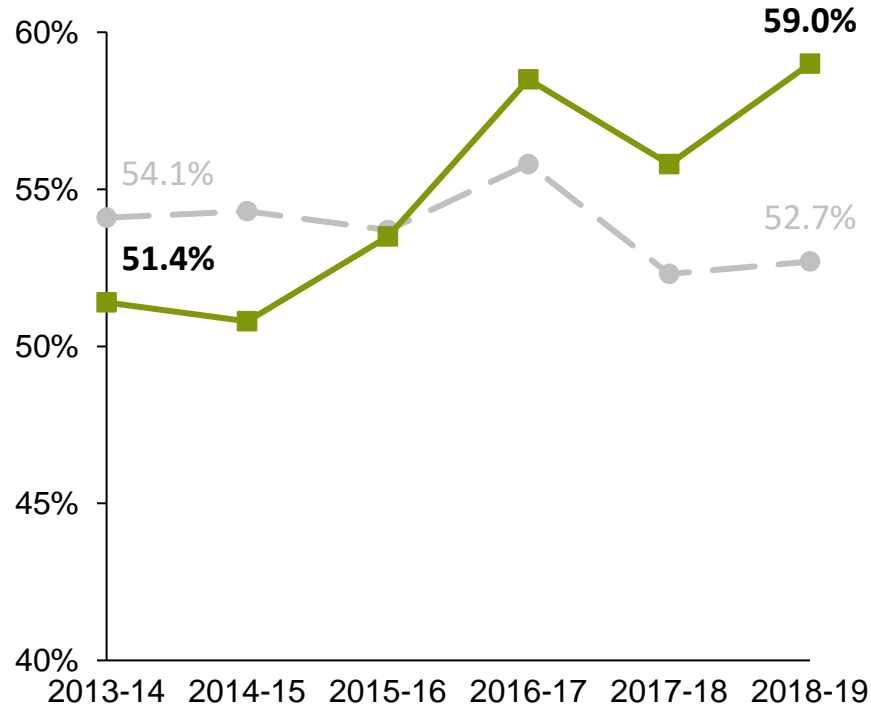
68%
Of all high school students



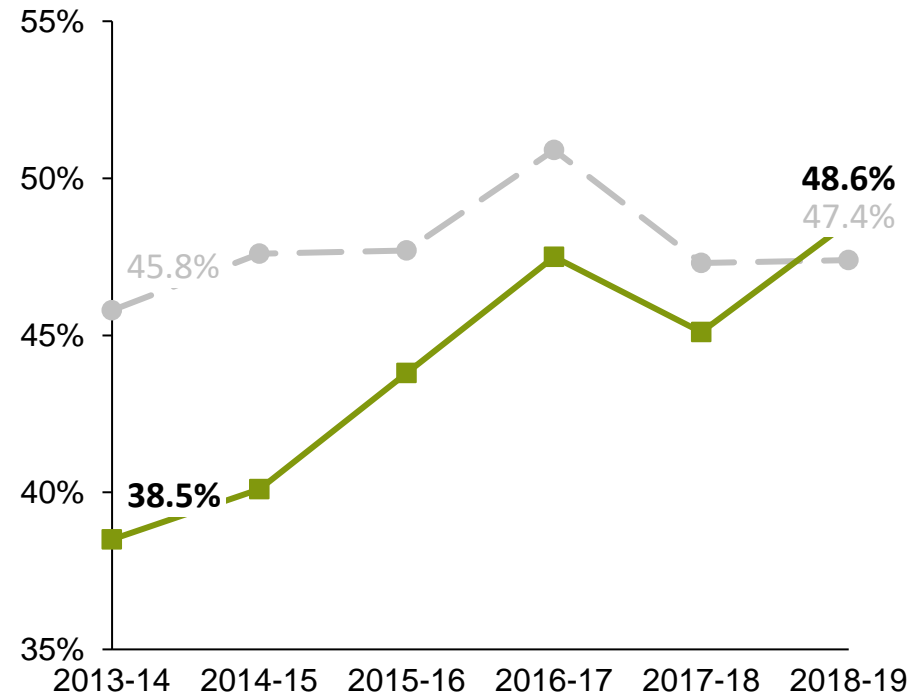
- AmeriCorps
- Full Service Community Schools
- GEAR UP
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- NEA Artworks
- Partners for Appalachian Families
- Place of Intensive Focus
- Promise Neighborhood
- Readiness Bus
- Rural Accelerator Initiative
- Talent Search
- Upward Bound
- Upward Bound Math & Science

We have moved population level outcomes

Percent of 3rd Graders Proficient in Reading
2013-2019



Percent of 3rd Graders Proficient in Math
2013-2019

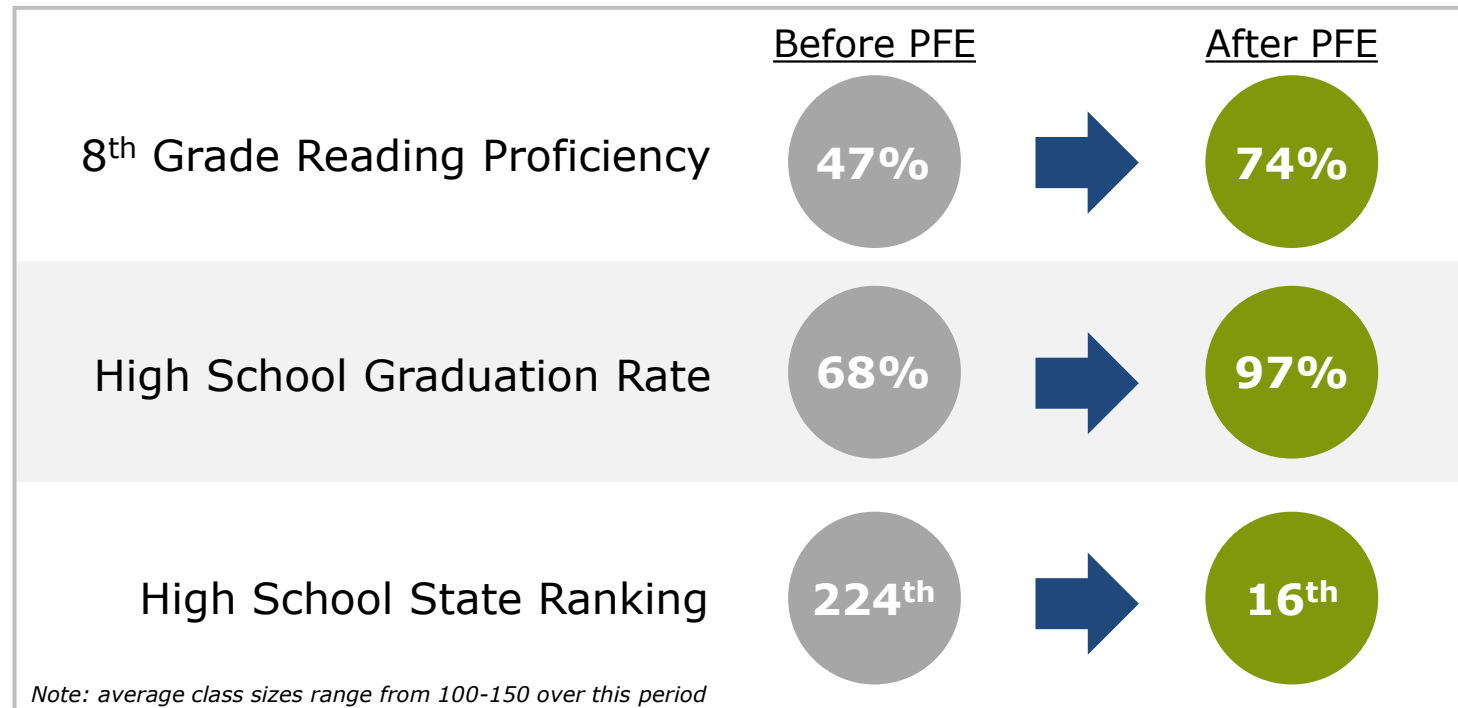


— ● — Kentucky — ■ — PFE Promise Zone

3rd grade proficiency scores in reading and math have grown by 8 and 10 percentage points respectively, and have now surpassed the state average

We have seen remarkable outcomes in school districts

Braiding multiple programs and interventions in **Leslie County** resulted in a remarkable school transformation



*"With Partners for Education's support we achieved the highest ACT, AP World History, and AP Bio scores in our school's history. **The partnership has transformed our school and our district.**"*

Partners for Education's
College Access and Success Model

WE BELIEVE IN YOU



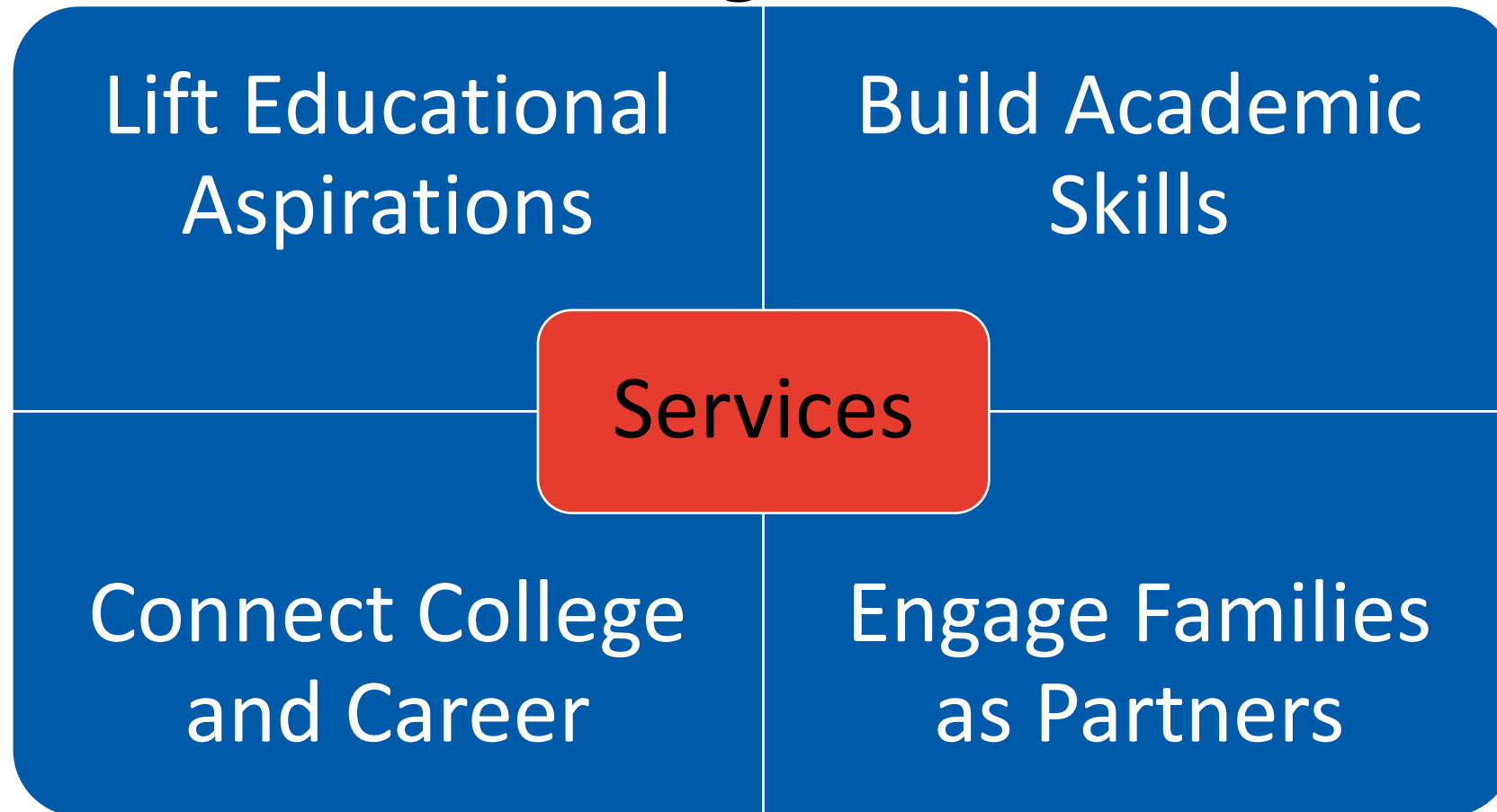
STUDENTS ARE OUR INVESTMENT

The Power of one Caring Adult

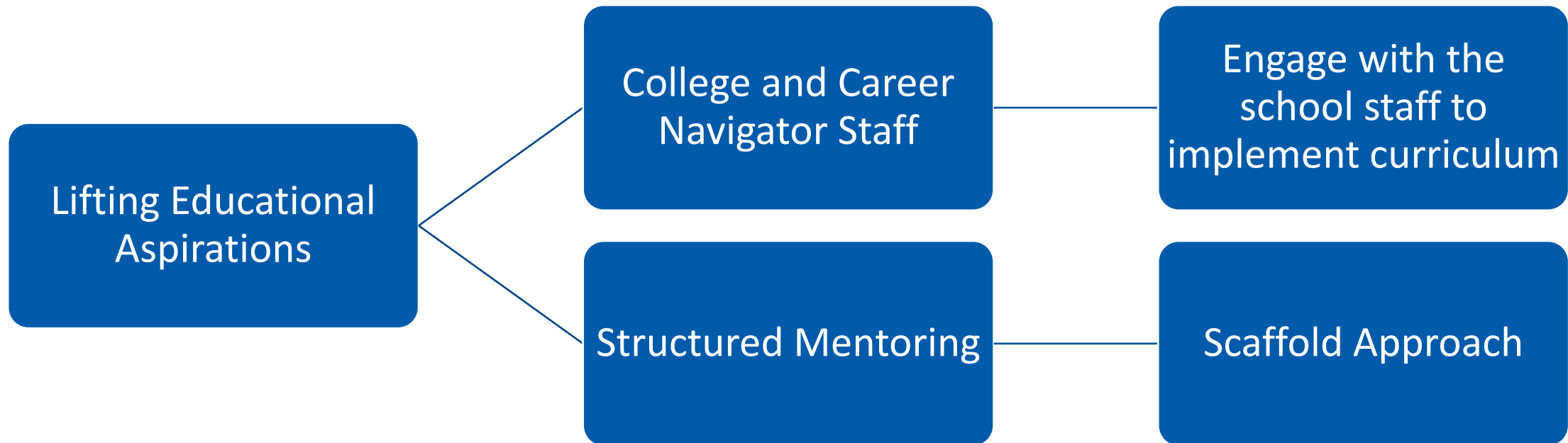


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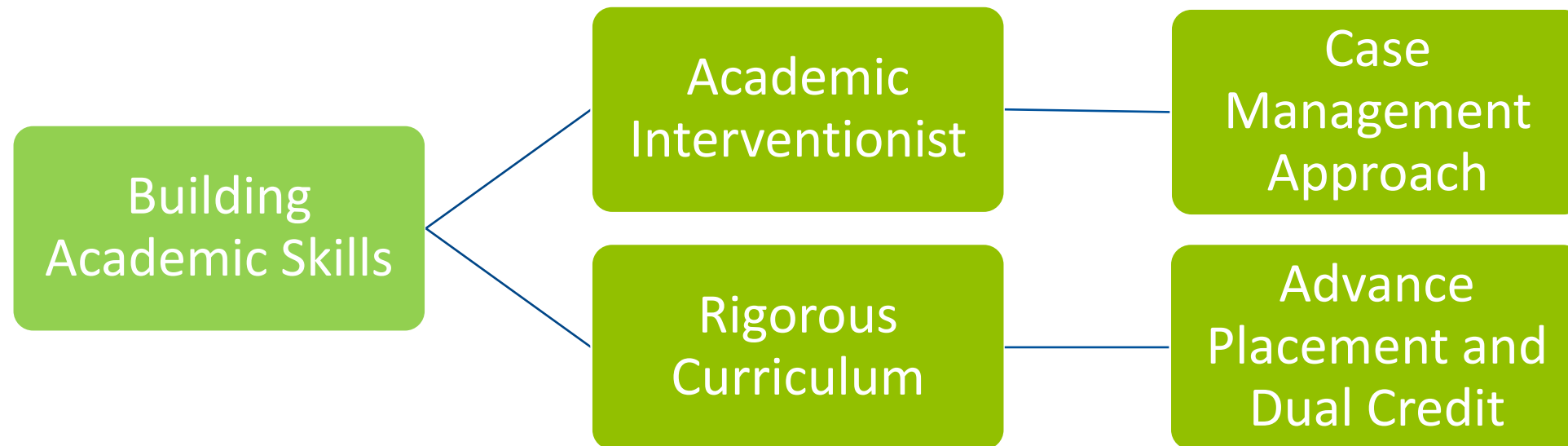
Successful strategies that help rural students prepare for life in college



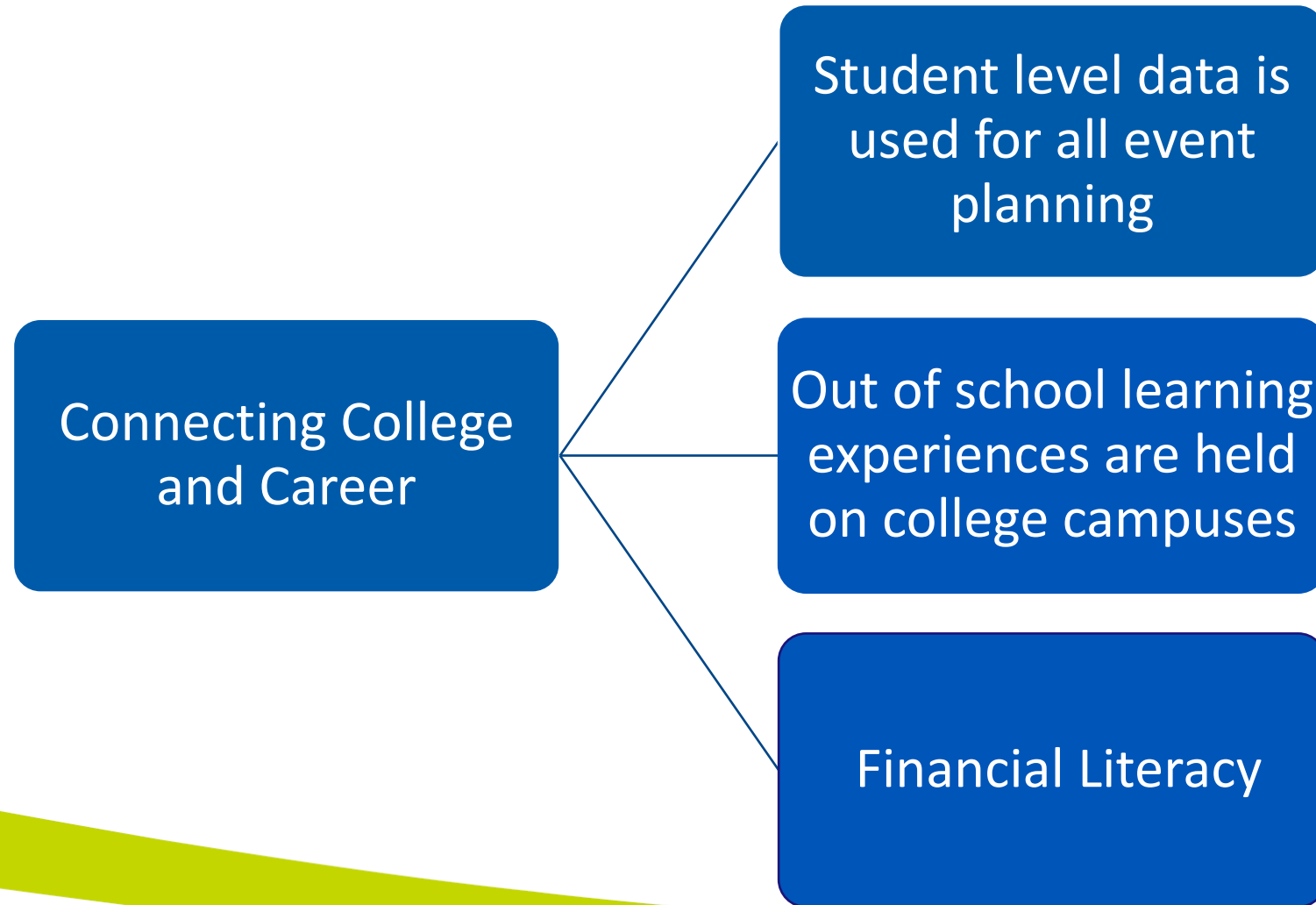
Lifting Educational Aspirations



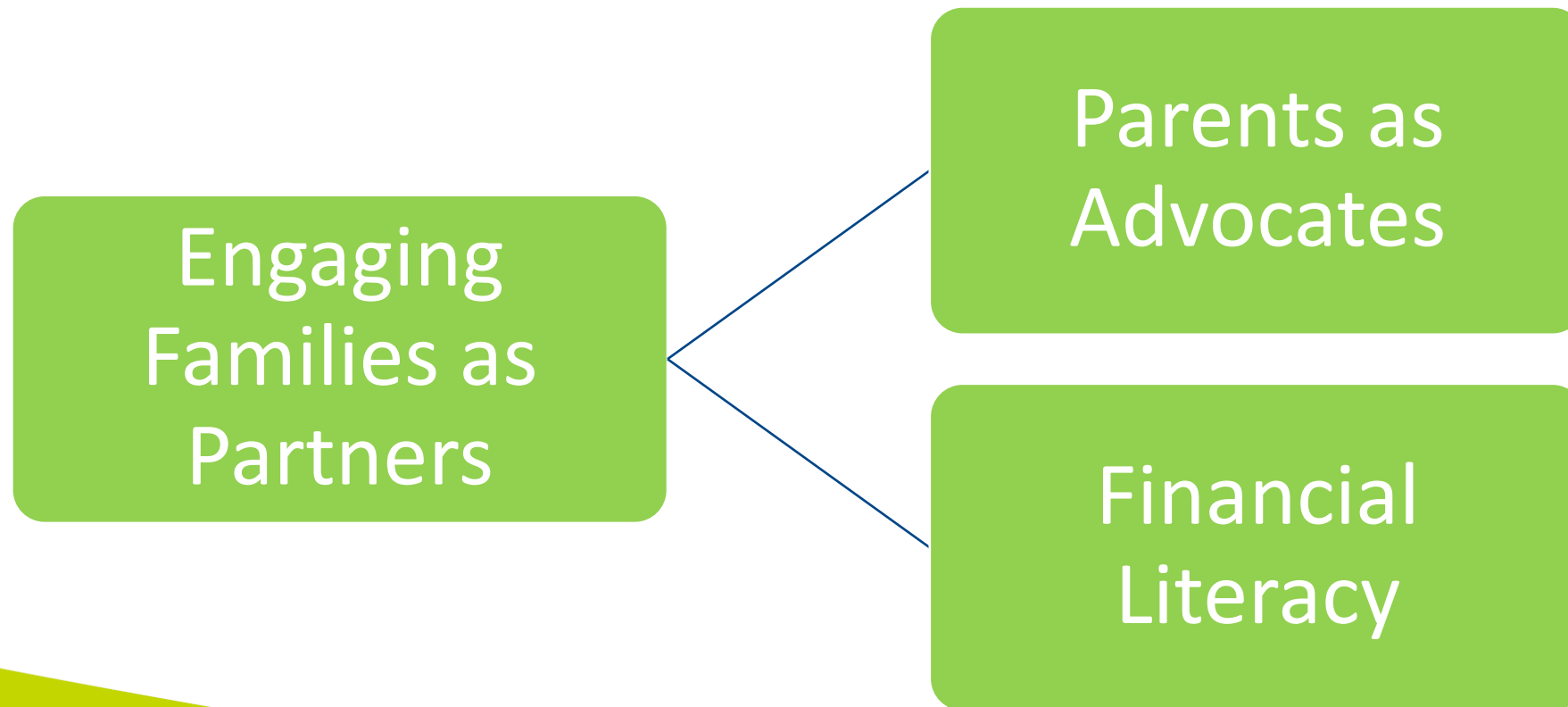
Building Academic Skills



Connecting College and Careers



Engaging Families



Our Work in the Frame of COVID-19

Influencing Systems and Funding

- Working with policymakers to share the needs of rural schools and students
- Collecting qualitative data from students, teachers and parents to inform policies and funding
- Identifying flexible funding to support rural student and school needs

Building Capacity of educators and parents

- Assisting districts in the move to non-traditional instruction
- Supporting teachers and college access professionals in connecting remotely with students
- Providing parents with curated resources, cradle to career, to support their student's learning (www.partnersforappalachianfamilies.org)

Implementing Innovative Programs

- Lifting Aspirations
- Building Academic Skills
- Connecting College and Career
- Engaging Families

Questions?



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Join us:

The work will go on!

***Please follow this link and be added to our
mailing list***

ruralsummit@bereda.edu

about

upcoming

Rural College Access and Success Summits.

Manchester, New Hampshire: April 25-27, 2021

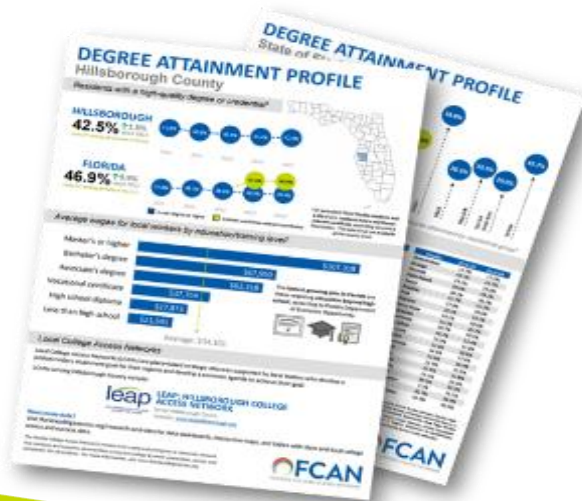
Scottsdale, Arizona: April 24-26, 2022

Learn More:

Register for upcoming webinars:

5/12 10-11 am: **Closing the Opportunity Divide: Holistically Building Career Readiness in Young Adults** with Year Up

5/19 1-2 pm: **Partnering for Success: Creating Education Alignment that Works** with National Postsecondary Strategy Institute



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Conclusion

