Beyond Financial Aid

http://www.luminafoundation.org/resources/beyond-financial-aid-quidebook

In order to help raise the completion rates of low-income students, which will improve their economic opportunity and engagement in civic life, colleges must strengthen their support for these at-risk students in ways that go **beyond traditional financial aid**.

The following graphic illustrates the advantage that wealth confers on even those students who do poorly on tests and thus are predicted to drop out. Poor students with above-average ability have lower rates of completion than the richest students with below-average test scores.

Figure 2: College graduation rates by family income and test scores

Below-average test scores

Richest

30%
Complete college

Upper middle

19%

50%

Source: Affluent Students Have an Advantage and the Gap is Widening, December 12, 2012, New York Times based on research from Bowen, W.G., Chingos, M.M., & McPherson, M.S. (2009). Crossing the Finish Line: Completing College at America's Public Universities. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press