



Nebraska State  
College System

CHADRON | PERU | WAYNE

# STATE COLLEGES FOR NEBRASKA



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STRATEGIC PLAN **2025**

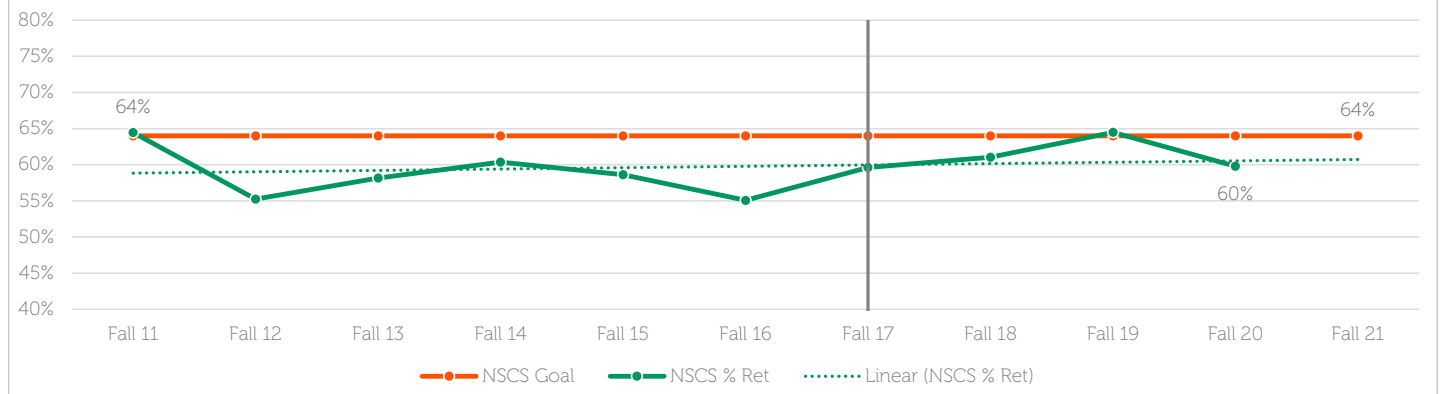
JANUARY, 2022 UPDATE

# Pell-Eligible Student Retention Rates

## INDICATOR 2

The overall number of Pell-Eligible students retained in the State College System has increased gradually over the past decade, achieving one of its highest retention rates for the Fall 2019 cohort. For the 2020 cohort, the System experienced a 4% decline, returning to the original baseline that had been achieved at 60% for the Fall 2017 class. While the success over the two previous years helped the System close the gap and hit the desired benchmark set by the Strategic Plan Task Force, greater emphasis will be necessary to return to these levels and effectively eliminate the gap that exists for these students and the general student population.

FIGURE 2: Pell-Eligible Student Retention Rates  
Nebraska State College System



A central goal of the Nebraska State College System is to provide an affordable and open access high education option for Nebraska students, indicating the three Colleges will be the institutions of choice for a higher percentage of low-income and first-generation students. Many of these students are likely to be Pell-Eligible, which requires additional financial and

support services to ensure these students can successfully navigate the first-year experience at their institution of choice. Eliminating the existing gap in Pell-Eligible student retention has been identified as an important metric to ensure future retention rates for this specific student population to mirror the traditional student population across the System. The goal through 2025

is to make progress toward slowly eliminating this gap for this subset of students and increase the retention rate to 64% to bring it closer in line with the current rate for first-time, full-time cohorts that attend the State Colleges.

### Progress Toward Goal:

- 4% Decrease (1-Year Δ)
- 0% Change (3-Year Δ)