



Did You Know?

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, 6.5 million students are enrolled in credit courses at community colleges. [Learn more.](#)

[About CCSSE](#) | [Survey Results](#) | [About the Survey](#) | [Retention](#) | [Resources](#) | [Faculty Survey](#) | [Members Only](#)

NISOD **CCSSE** Webinar

View the [Webinar](#) from the NISOD Webinar Series (2/12/09) featuring expert practitioners—including Kay McClenney, Director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement, Bill Law, Jr., President, Tallahassee Community College, and Bob Pura, President, Greenfield Community College—discussing “High Expectations for Student Engagement.”

Registration Open for the 2009 **CCSSE** Workshop

The annual Center for Community College Student Engagement Workshop will be held May 26, 2009, at the [Austin Four Seasons Hotel](#). Held concurrently with the [2009 NISOD Conference](#), the CCSSE Workshop is free for CCSSE and SENSE member college personnel (\$50 for non-members). Learn about [workshop sessions and speakers](#). [Advance registration required.](#)



2009 **CCSSE** Workshop

10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
Austin Four Seasons Hotel
Austin, Texas

[Register today!](#)

[Learn more...](#)

The Center is hiring

The Center for Community College Student Engagement is looking for a senior research associate/data analyst to work with our small but terrific staff and provide leadership for our research agenda. We need someone with high-level technical skills in SAS/SPSS programming. [Please see the position announcement.](#)

CCSSE is on the move!

[Learn more](#)

Take Advantage of One-time Price Subsidy Offer— Save 50% on 2009 **SENSE** Base Fees

Community and technical colleges across the country are struggling with entering student attrition—nearly half of entering students drop out before the second year. At the same time, many colleges are facing significant budget cuts. We want to help!

With the support of grant funding from the Lumina Foundation for Education and Houston Endowment Inc., we are offering a one-time 50% subsidy for colleges that register for the 2009 administration of the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (**SENSE**) by April 3, 2009. [Register today!](#)



Engage in Engagement

Interested in joining the hundreds of community and technical colleges that participate in **CCSSE**, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, and **CCFSSE**, its faculty counterpart? Registration for the spring 2010 survey administrations will open in April 1, 2009. Mark your calendar now to register early!

CCSSE Releases 2008 National Report

The [2008 CCSSE National Report. High Expectations and High Support](#) (PDF), and the [2008 CCSSE Executive Summary](#) (PDF) are now available. This year's report focuses on two critical, interrelated elements of engagement—high expectations and high support, making the case that students do best when expectations are high and they receive support that helps them achieve at high levels. Colleges that demonstrate both high expectations and high support give their students essential tools to succeed.



To illustrate these points, the report describes key findings from the survey, offers many examples of how colleges are using their results to target improvements, provides results of the 2008 set of special-focus items on students' experiences with financial aid, and provides selected findings from the Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE). The student voice is prominently featured in quotes from focus groups conducted through our MetLife Foundation Initiative on Student Success.

Since its release on November 17, 2008, the report has sparked substantial conversations about quality in higher education. For example, Kevin Carey's *Chronicle of Higher Education* commentary "[No One Rises to Low Expectations](#)" examines the relationships of expectations and support to student outcomes, focusing—as does CCSSE—on the critical role institutions play in ensuring student success.

Read the [Media Release](#) (PDF) and additional media coverage of the report in the [Press Clips section](#) of the Web site.

CCSSE / USA TODAY Initiative Goes Live

On November 17, in conjunction with the release of the CCSSE 2008 National Report, USA TODAY launched [a new Web site featuring CCSSE data](#) to communicate the importance of student engagement and illustrate how community and technical colleges are addressing the learning needs of their students. This Web site gives participating colleges a prominent platform by which to communicate their unique strengths to a wide audience of prospective students, parents,

educators, and other readers who would like to know more about community colleges and their work to ensure a high level of educational quality for students.

In coming months, USA TODAY higher education reporter Mary Beth Marklein will continue her series on community colleges with a significant story about the escalating state-level calls for college accountability and performance, and institutions' efforts to rise to the call for quality and improved student outcomes. The first installment in Marklein's series on community colleges, a USA TODAY front page cover story, is available online at: [U.S. community colleges at a 'turning point'- USATODAY.com](http://U.S.communitycollegesaturningpoint-USATODAY.com).

CCSSE colleges interested in participating in the CCSSE / USA TODAY initiative may read our [Invitation to College CEOs](#), [Memorandum of Understanding between CCSSE and USA TODAY](#), and [FAQs](#) for more information. CCSSE college CEOs have been asked to indicate their choice to participate (or not) by completing a [Response Form/Participation Agreement](#) and returning it to CCSSE.

An Improvement Strategy for Community Colleges

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) provides a much-needed tool for assessing quality in community college education. CCSSE results help colleges focus on good educational practice — defined as practice that promotes high levels of student learning and retention — and identify areas in which community colleges can improve their programs and services for students. All our work is grounded in research about what works in strengthening student learning and persistence.

Each year, CCSSE releases the results of its survey, which is administered directly to community college students at CCSSE member colleges during randomly selected classes. The survey asks questions about institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention. Results are public, and they are presented for the full CCSSE population, various subgroups within the full population, and individual colleges.* Results include [national benchmarks](#) and [institutional benchmark scores](#) for five key areas of engagement.

CCSSE is committed to presenting data without flinching. Accurate information, whether positive or negative, can help improve educational practice and performance. We also support community college efforts to use survey data for continuous improvement, and we encourage policymakers to create conditions that support and reward institutional work to improve student learning.

*CCSSE opposes using its data to rank colleges. Each community college's performance should be considered in terms of its mission, institutional focus, and student characteristics. Because of differences in these areas — and variations in college resources — comparing survey results between individual institutions serves little constructive purpose and likely will be misleading. For more information, see our [policy statement on responsible uses of CCSSE data](#).

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