

On Point for College List of 31 Retention Program Elements

Pre-Enrollment Retention Elements

1. **College Visits** – 2 to 3 college visits per week to campus for prospective college students to help assure a better “college fit”.
2. **Pre-orientation Check** – Counselors verify admission, financial aid, and housing
3. **Orientation Program** – Covers academic success, time management, roommates, etc.
4. **Advocacy prior to enrollment** – Counselors advocate for student placement in programs that support first-generation, low-income youth with grant aid and on-campus counselors
5. **Provision of Basic Needs and College Supplies** – Backpacks, stationery supplies, and \$150 clothing stipend for low-income youth; also bedding and towels for resident students
6. **Placement Tests** – Transportation provided to college so prospective students can take tests in timely manner and to access better course selection
7. **First Day of College** – Transportation to college for students, belongings, and parents

Post Enrollment Retention and Support Elements of the Program

8. **Follow-up Campus Visits by Staff** – During the first month of each semester, counselors visit students at all New York State campuses and check financial aid, secure textbooks, and escort students to on-campus tutoring services. Provide emotional support. College Success (Retention) Counselors visit the local community college weekly to meet with students and other two-year and Agricultural and Technical colleges monthly, assisting students in resolving academic, financial, or personal issues.
9. **On Campus Advocacy** – Counselor guidance on financial aid problems, legal issues, accommodation for students with disabilities, and conflicts with professors or staff.
10. **“Campus Angel” Network** – On-campus faculty or staff who are identified at each college because they demonstrate compassion for first generation college students and proactively communicate with our college access and retention staff.
11. **Transportation for College Vacations** – Provided by staff and 100 volunteer mentors for students who lack transportation; bus and train tickets also provided.
12. **Basic and Emergency Needs** – Eyeglasses, winter coats, food, and medicine including pro-bono dental services provided by a OPFC Board member.
13. **Last Dollar Grants** – Enrollment and housing deposits for the neediest students.
14. **Financial Assistance for Textbooks** – for those students who have a gap in financial aid.
15. **Math & Science Grants** – Tuition assistance to take summer math and science course to help advancement in STEM, business/finance, and health-related disciplines.

16. [Transfer Services](#) – From two-year to four-year colleges and for students who need to transfer for other reasons is provided on campus.
17. [Re-enrollment Assistance](#) – College Success Counselors guide college stopouts about how to re-enroll and assist with advocacy around academic, financial aid, and personal issues.
18. [Alternative Housing for College Breaks](#) – Limited free summer housing for chronically homeless and vulnerable students
19. [Success Seminars](#) – Workshops over spring break to help with resumes, interviewing techniques, networking for internships and jobs and soft skills to help prepare college students make the transition to the workforce
20. [Consultation with Parents](#) – Counselors provide “How to Help Your Child to Succeed in College” workshops every semester and they meet with parents, as needed.
21. [Counselor Accessibility](#) – 7 days a week and 15 hours a day.
22. [Timely Intervention/Attendance Monitoring](#) – Staff visits students on campus during September and January and phone to encourage good attendance & study habits.
23. [Neighborhood Center Support](#) – Centers provide space to meet, Medicaid applications, mentors, and summer jobs
24. [Upperclassmen and Peer Support](#) – Successful college students give lead campus tours when prospective students visit their college campus
25. [College Students present an Early Awareness Program](#) – Successful college students give presentations entitled “College is Possible” to youth aged 8 – 15 at neighborhood centers, libraries, elementary schools, middle schools and GED classes.
26. [Support for Students with Limited English Proficiency](#) - Program identifies colleges with best English as Second Language Programs and recruits bilingual volunteers.
27. [Additional Supportive Services/Referrals](#) – Ongoing guidance for students who lack a supportive parent, includes conflict resolution/anger management skills, and budgeting
28. [Sensitivity \(Anti-discrimination\) Advocacy](#) – Staff helps colleges to recognize both overt and inadvertent discrimination that may occur with waiting lists, legal issues, work-study placements, in classrooms and cafeterias
29. [Academic Skill Building](#) – Staff and mentors help college students access on campus tutoring.
30. [On-campus Living is Supported by Program](#) – Retention rates are higher for college students who live on campus. Resident students avoid transportation and housing issues, have fewer distractions, and are surrounded by peers with similar goals.
31. [Access to On Point for Jobs](#) – College students and graduates have access to bridge to workforce assistance including resume writing, networking, job fairs, and summer and permanent job placement.

Favorable College Retention Policies Recommended by On Point for College

Other possible universal college retention policies:

- ✓ Check the National College Access Network (NCAN) website to find a college access and retention program near you (www.collegeaccess.org)
- ✓ Recruit at Community Centers
- ✓ Emergency loan against financial aid for bus tickets and train fare
- ✓ Application fee waivers for all low-income youth
- ✓ Book deferments against financial aid available at the beginning of the semester
- ✓ Early placement tests in key cities (e.g. SUNYAlbany); while On Point for College transports many students to placement testing, we have discovered to our dismay, that our students were the only students of color. When students miss early placement testing they can miss out on the best course selections.
- ✓ More and similar programs to Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and Higher Educational Opportunity Program (HEOP) programs that provide pre-college, summer sessions on campus and provide a counselor once a student has enrolled
- ✓ Require college bookstores to carry all required supplies (i.e. art supplies, calculators, culinary uniforms) and allow students to borrow against financial aid at the beginning of the semester
- ✓ Allow low-income students to use financial aid for enrollment and room deposits
- ✓ Free transcript services for low-income students
- ✓ Accessible tutoring process that is student initiated and offered for all courses at no charge to low-income students
- ✓ Designated campus angels (staff who care and like to troubleshoot or counsel) first generation college students;
- ✓ No hidden fees for low-income students (e.g. website access fees, fees to use computers in residence halls, etc.).
- ✓ Provide some family housing on campus (e.g. Buffalo State offers a designated family dorm with an on-campus day care center and public school classes for K-6) students
- ✓ Offer sufficient computer availability for low-income students who do not own their own computers or offer a laptop loan or buy-out option like SUNYMorrisville, where students can charge a semester fee against their financial aid and buy-out their computer by their last semester of college.