

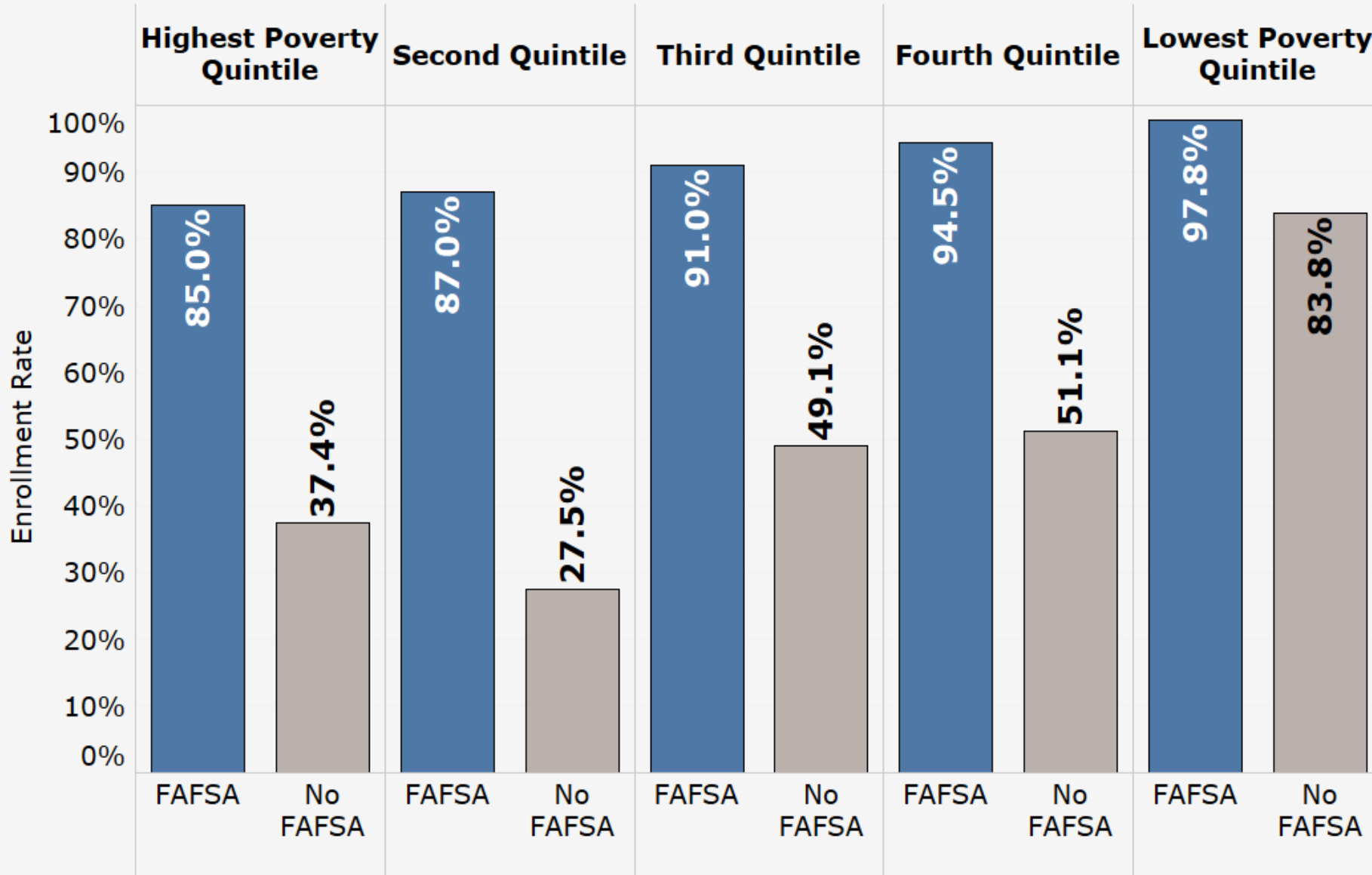
BENDING THE TRENDS: ADDRESSING ENROLLMENT CHALLENGES

*Western Interstate Commission for Higher
Education (WICHE)*

*Legislative Advisory Committee Meeting
2022*

9/27/2022

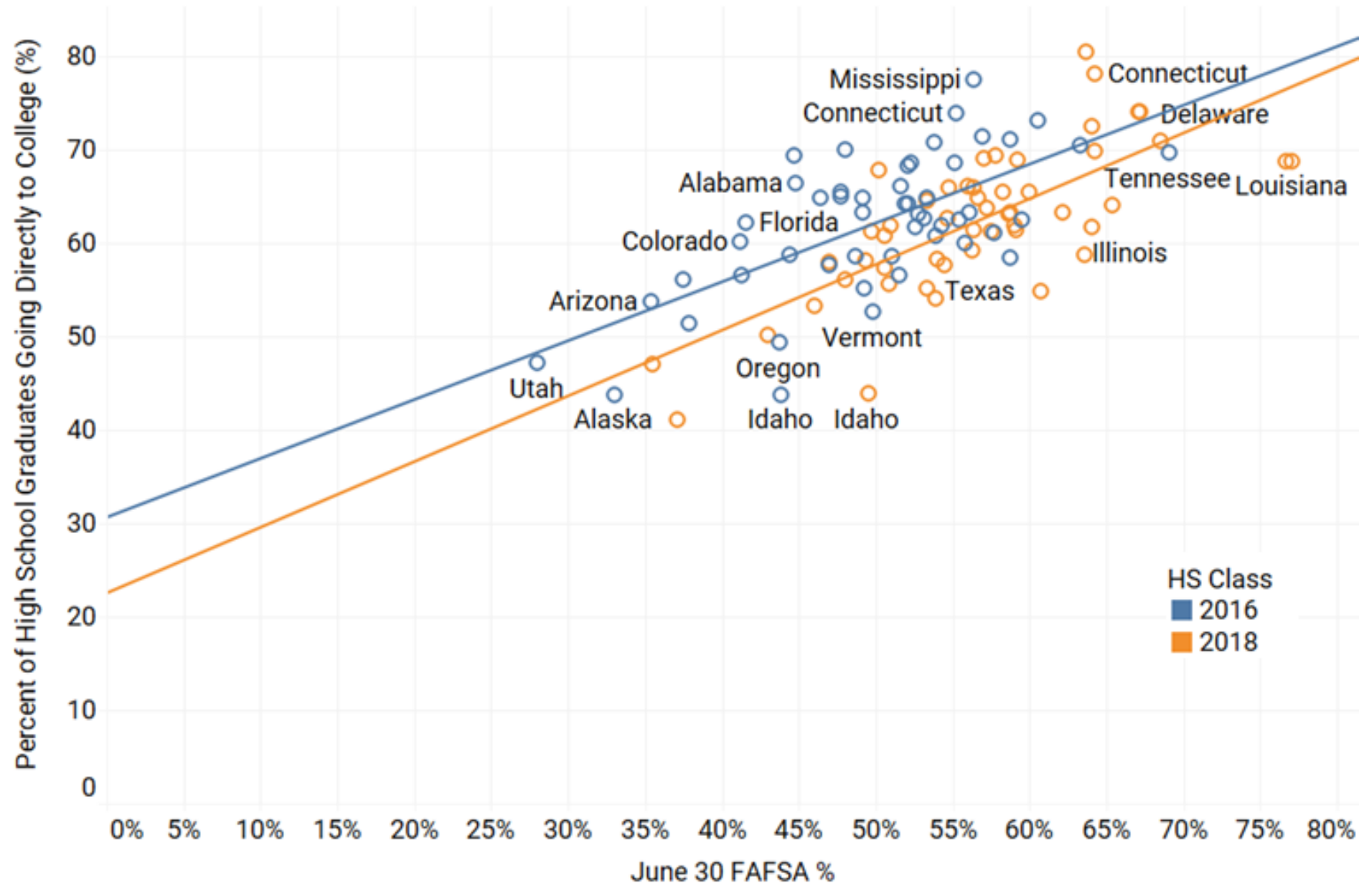
Immediate college enrollment following high school graduation, by percentile of district poverty and FAFSA completion status.



WHY
FAFSA
COMPLETION
MATTERS
SO
MUCH

**WHY
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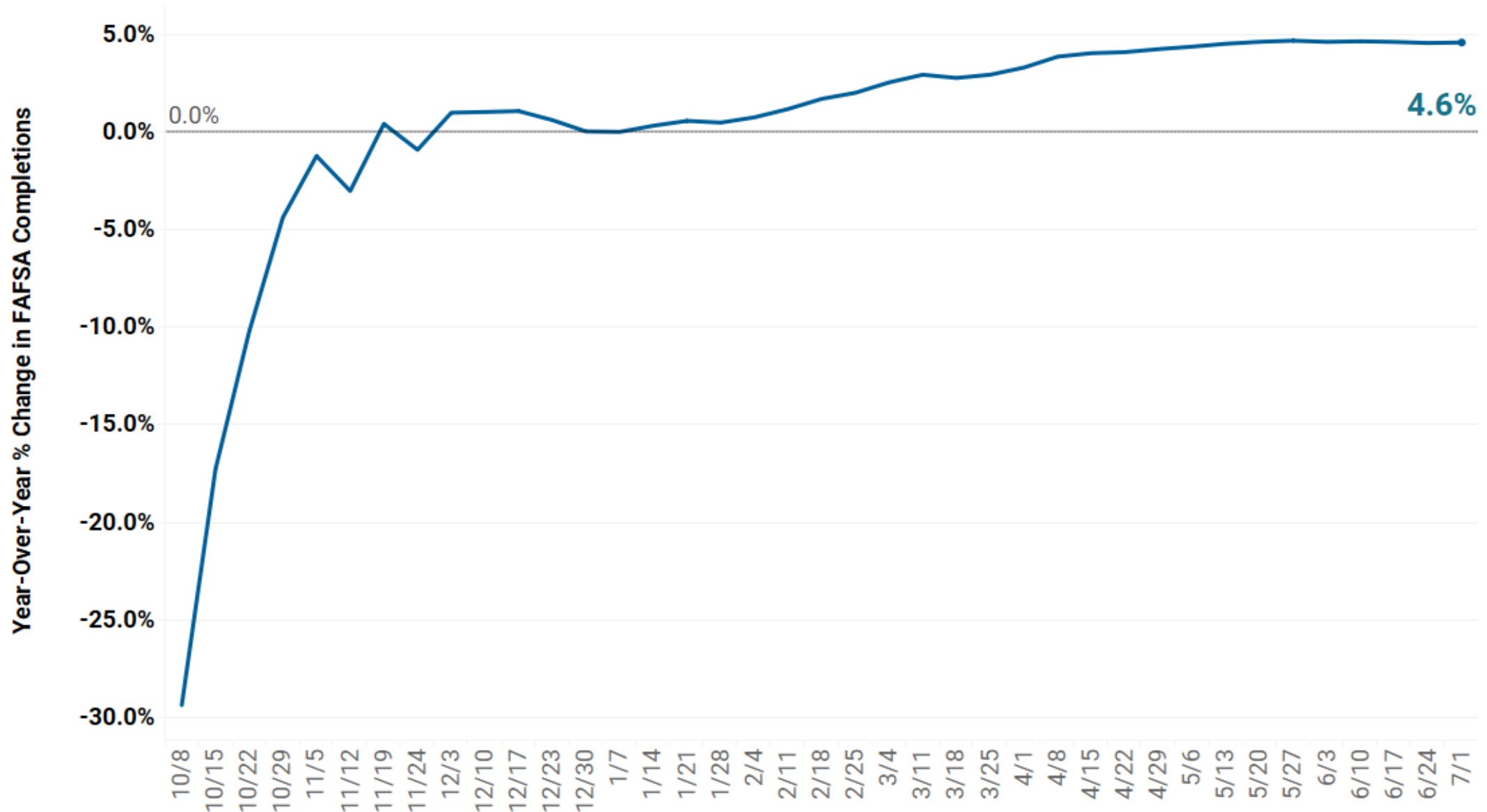
FAFSA Completion by June and Immediate College Enrollment, High School Classes of 2016 and 2018



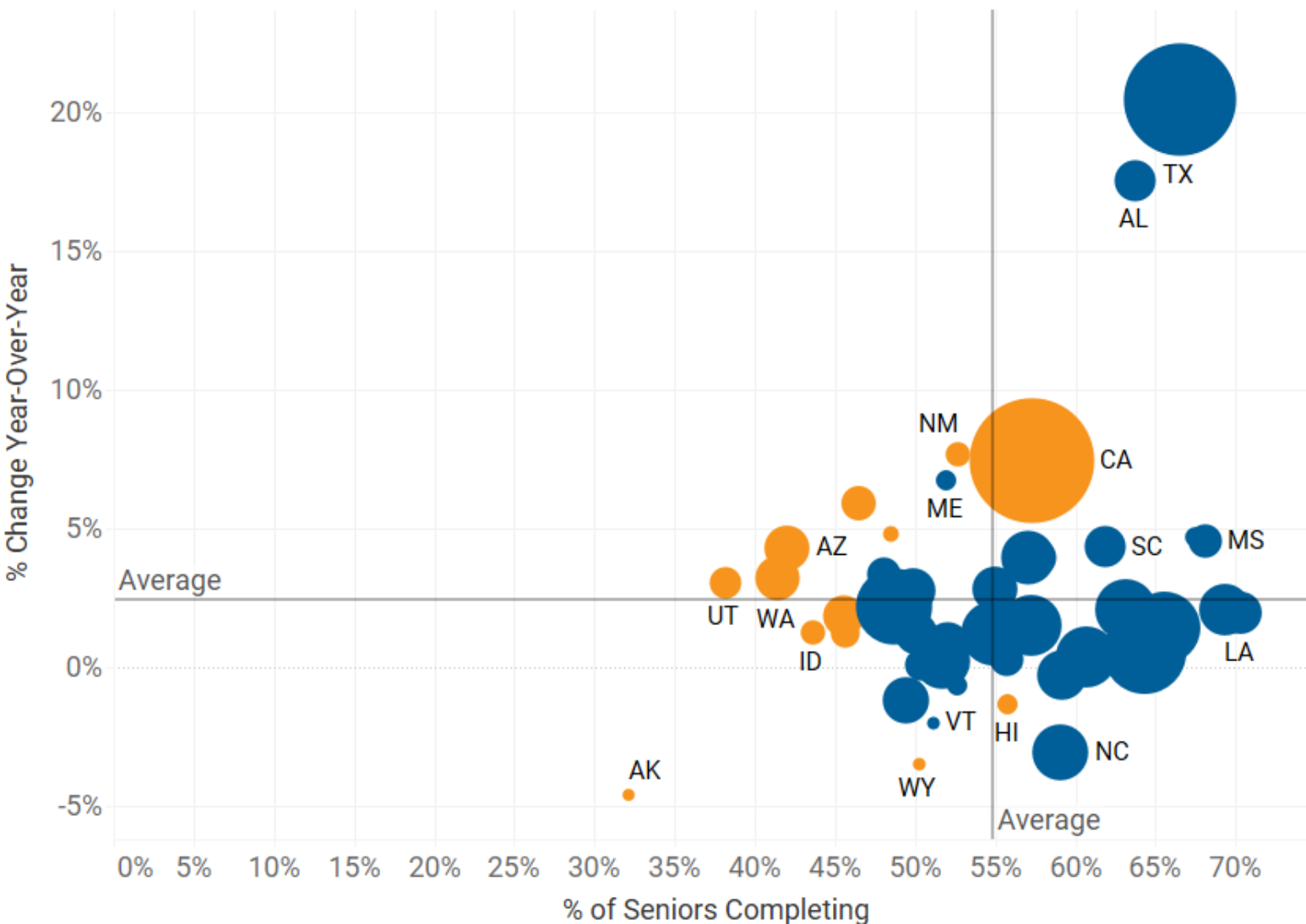
FAFSA COMPLETION IS THE CANARY IN THE COAL MINE

High School Class	National FAFSA Completion Rate	Year-Over-Year FAFSA % Change	National First Fall Enrollment Rate
2018	57.2%	+1.9%	61.2%
2019	57.0%	-0.5%	60.5%
2020	55.6%	-3.7%	56.5%
2021	53.3%	-4.8%	???

Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA Completions, Class of 2022 High School Seniors, Through July 1, 2022



HS Class of 2022 FAFSA Completion Through 9/9, By State, % Change in FAFSA Completions by % of Seniors Completing (Size Weight: # of FAFSAs Completed, **Census-designated Western states**)



On average, **Western states** are below average by percentage of seniors completing, but many Western states saw **above-average year-over-year changes** in their number of completions for the class of 2022.

Looking at the charts below, it's clear that for the class of 2022 many **Western states** saw strong year-over-year gains (on the left), but are still largely concentrated on the bottom by percent of seniors completing (on the right). For larger, more readable rankings, visit FormYourFuture.org

Year-over-year percent change in FAFSA completions through 9/9/22



Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA Completions Through

	Rank	% Change
Texas	1	20.4%
Alabama	2	17.5%
New Mexico	3	7.6%
California	4	7.5%
Maine	5	6.7%
Oregon	6	5.9%
Montana	7	4.8%
Delaware	8	4.7%
Mississippi	9	4.5%
South Carolina	10	4.3%
Arizona	11	4.3%
Kentucky	12	3.9%
Virginia	13	3.9%
Puerto Rico	14	3.4%
Oklahoma	15	3.3%
Washington	16	3.2%
Utah	17	3.1%
Maryland	18	2.8%
Minnesota	19	2.8%
Washington, D.C.	20	2.5%
Florida	21	2.2%
New Jersey	22	2.1%
Tennessee	23	2.1%
Louisiana	24	2.0%
Connecticut	25	1.9%
Colorado	26	1.9%
West Virginia	27	1.8%
Ohio	28	1.5%
Illinois	29	1.4%
Idaho	30	1.3%
Wisconsin	31	1.3%
Pennsylvania	32	1.2%
Nevada	33	1.2%
Arkansas	34	1.1%
Nebraska	35	1.0%
Missouri	36	0.8%
South Dakota	37	0.7%
North Dakota	38	0.7%
New York	39	0.6%
Georgia	40	0.4%
Rhode Island	41	0.3%
Iowa	42	0.3%
Michigan	43	0.2%
Kansas	44	0.1%
Massachusetts	45	-0.3%
New Hampshire	46	-0.7%
Indiana	47	-1.2%
Hawaii	48	-1.3%
Vermont	49	-2.0%
North Carolina	50	-3.1%
Wyoming	51	-3.5%
Alaska	52	-4.6%

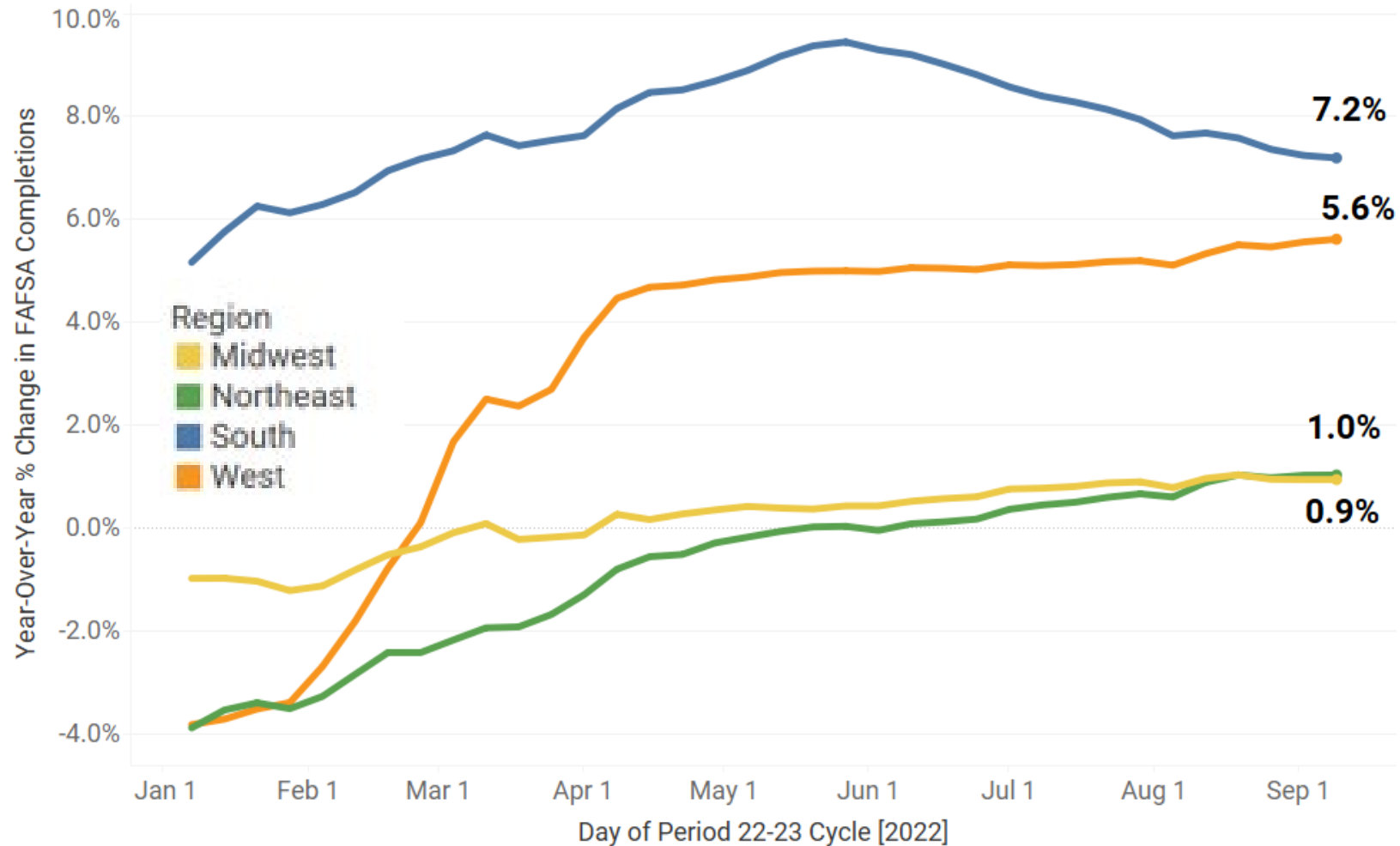
% of seniors completing a FAFSA through 9/9/22



Percent of High School Seniors Completing FAFSA Through

	Rank	% of Seniors Completing
Louisiana	1	70.3%
Tennessee	2	69.4%
Washington, D.C.	3	68.3%
Mississippi	4	68.1%
Delaware	5	67.4%
Texas	6	66.5%
Illinois	7	65.5%
New York	8	64.3%
Alabama	9	63.7%
New Jersey	10	63.1%
Connecticut	11	62.9%
Rhode Island	12	62.0%
South Carolina	13	61.8%
Georgia	14	60.7%
Massachusetts	15	59.1%
North Carolina	16	59.0%
Kentucky	17	57.7%
West Virginia	18	57.3%
California	19	57.2%
Ohio	20	57.2%
Virginia	21	57.0%
Hawaii	22	55.8%
Iowa	23	55.7%
Arkansas	24	55.2%
Maryland	25	55.0%
Pennsylvania	26	54.9%
South Dakota	27	54.0%
North Dakota	28	53.6%
New Mexico	29	52.7%
New Hampshire	30	52.6%
Nebraska	31	52.3%
Missouri	32	52.0%
Maine	33	51.9%
Michigan	34	51.7%
Vermont	35	51.1%
Kansas	36	50.4%
Wyoming	37	50.3%
Wisconsin	38	50.0%
Minnesota	39	49.8%
Indiana	40	49.4%
Florida	41	48.7%
Montana	42	48.5%
Oklahoma	43	48.0%
Oregon	44	46.5%
Nevada	45	45.7%
Colorado	46	45.6%
Idaho	47	43.6%
Arizona	48	42.0%
Washington	49	41.4%
Utah	50	38.1%
Alaska	51	32.1%

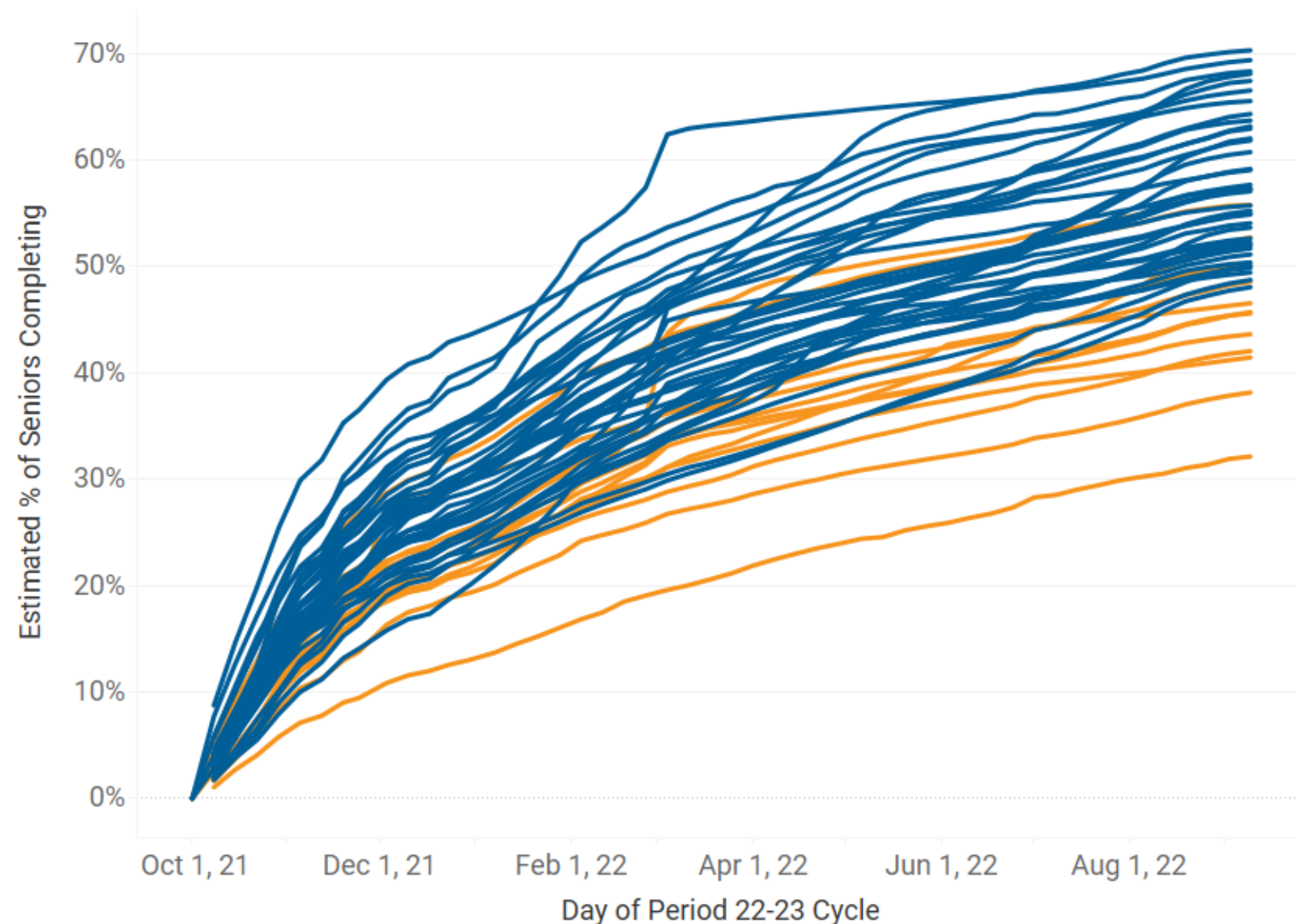
Year-over-year % Change in FAFSA Completions, by U.S. Census Region, 2022-23 Cycle, Through 9/9/22



For the high school class of 2022, **Western states** saw the second-largest year-over-year gains by U.S. Census region.

Despite those year-over-year (relative) gains, it's clear that **Western states** have a lot of room to grow in terms of absolute FAFSA completion performance.

Percent of Seniors Completing, by State (Census-designated Western States), Through 9/9/22



Unfortunately, this lagging FAFSA completion performance is consistent with a five-year trend.

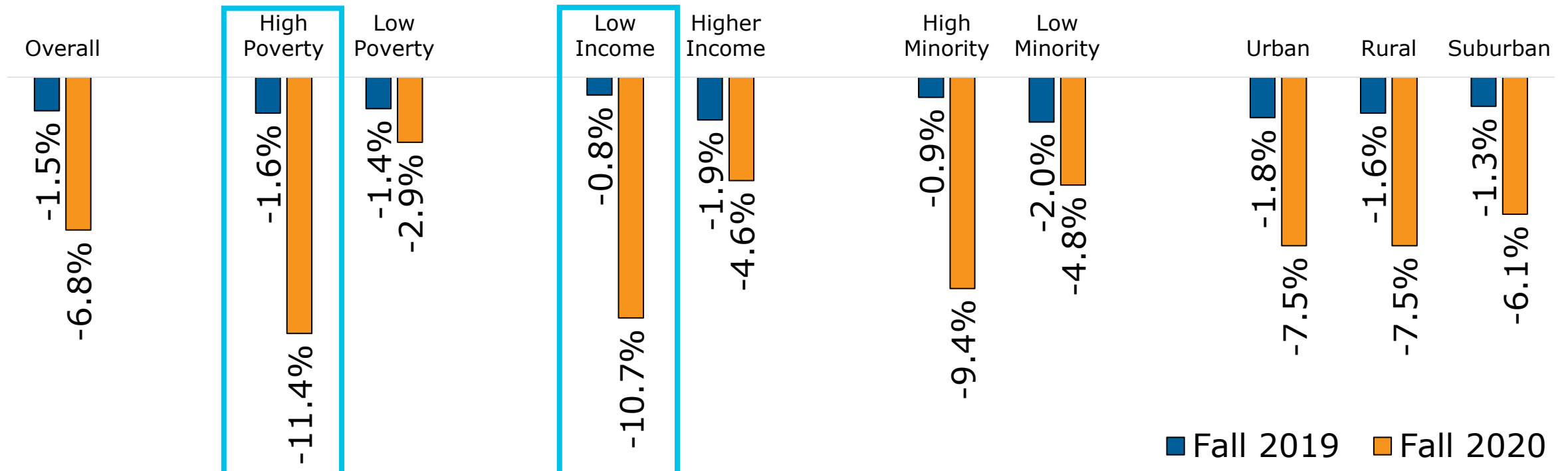
State Ranks by % of Seniors Completing a FAFSA On or About June 30, 2018-19 to 2022-23 Cycles

State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
Alaska	50	51	51	51	51	51
Arizona	51	48	48	48	49	49
California	30	25	20	27	17	24
Colorado	47	47	47	47	45	47
Hawaii	18	21	19	20	21	20
Idaho	44	46	46	46	47	46
Montana	35	43	45	44	41	42
Nevada	45	41	40	41	46	43
New Mexico	41	35	35	35	39	37
Oregon	39	44	42	45	42	42
Utah	51	50	50	50	50	50
Washington	48	49	49	49	48	49

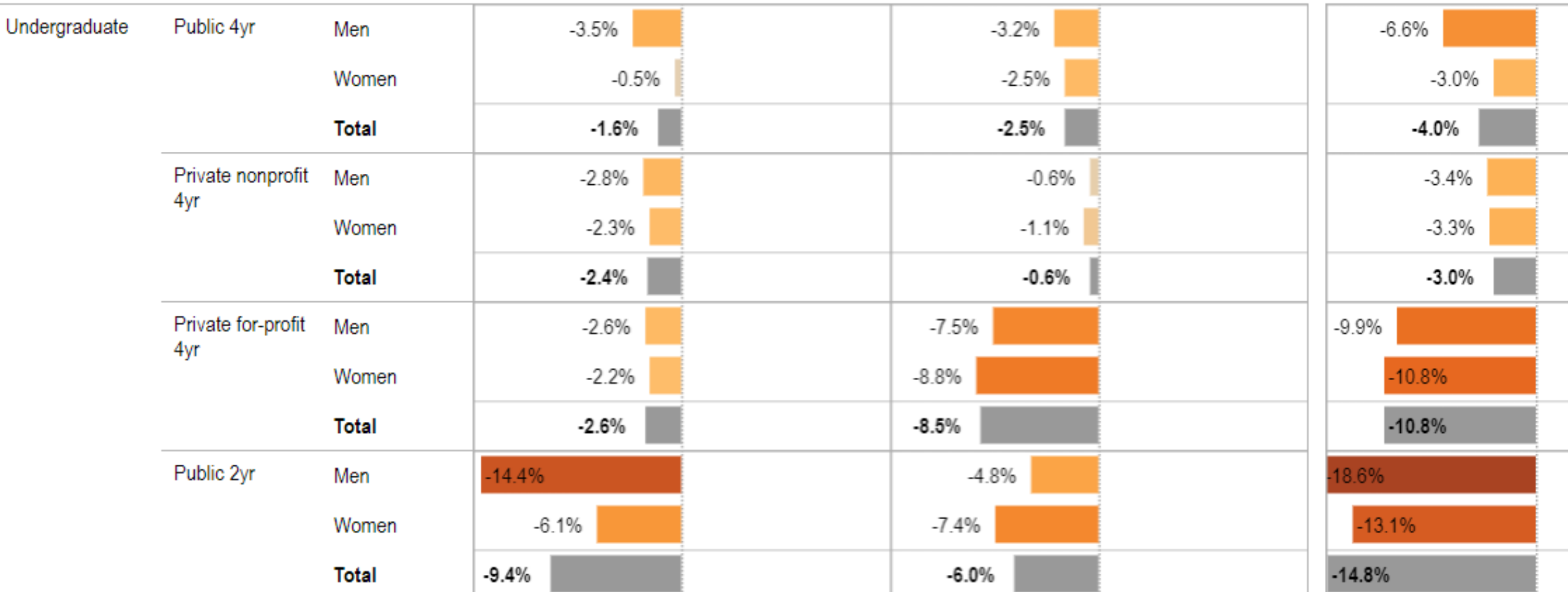
Class of 2020 enrollment outcomes were grim, and inequitably distributed

The high school class of 2020's immediate **fall postsecondary enrollment fell nearly 7%**, but declines were inequitable. High schools with more students of color and students from low-income backgrounds saw larger decreases.

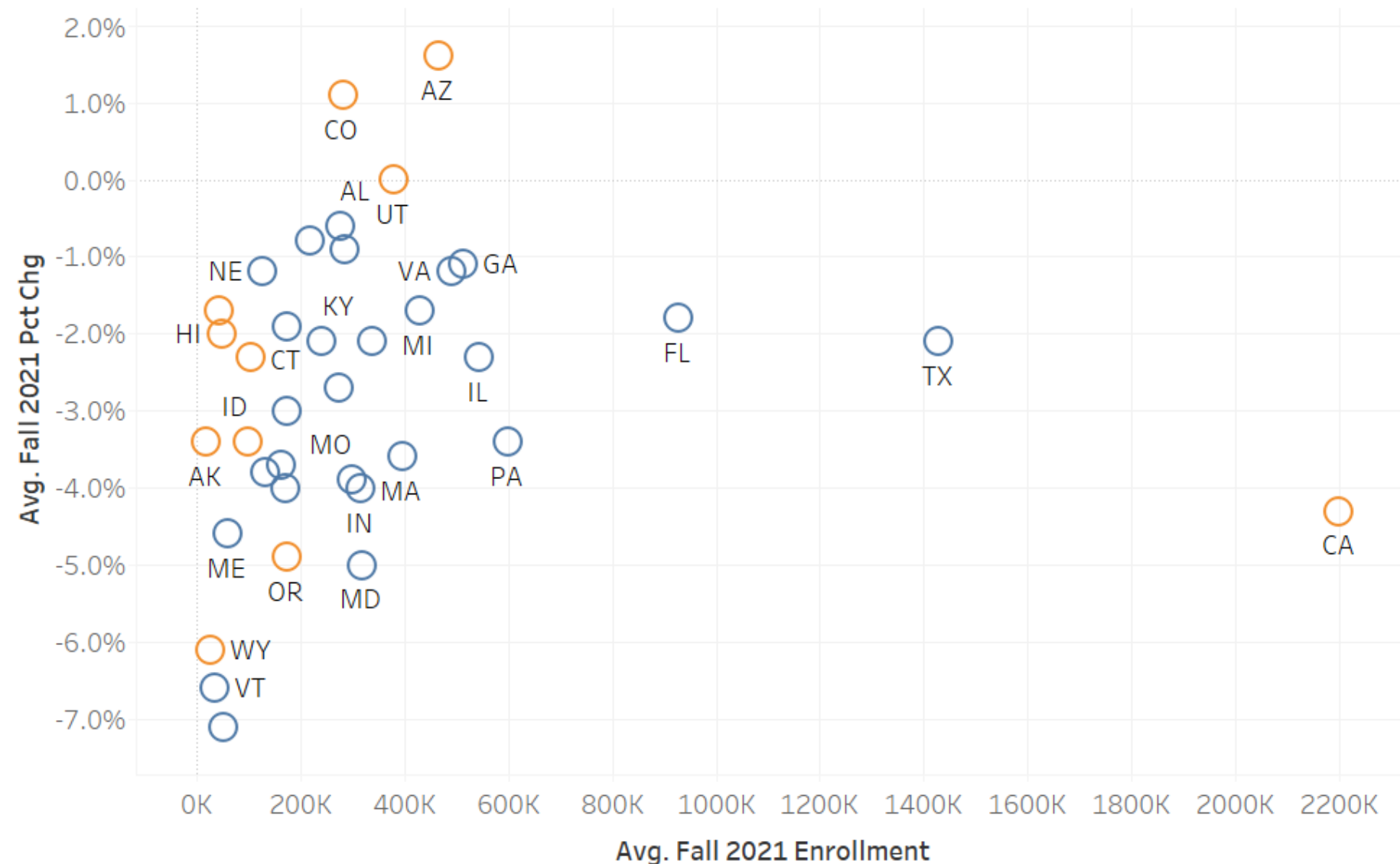
Percent Change in Immediate Fall Enrollments by High School Characteristics, Classes of 2019 and 2020



Undergraduate enrollment declines were particularly steep at community colleges



Fall 2021 Semester Year-Over-Year Enrollment Changes x Fall 2021 Semester Enrollment, by State



West/Non-West
■ Non-West
■ West

In the fall 2021 semester, **Western states** were indistinguishable from their peers by year-over-year change

NCAN's State Policy Levers for Postsecondary Pathways Project

- Provision student-level FAFSA completion data to local education agencies
- Use statewide National Student Clearinghouse contracts to provision postsecondary outcomes data
- Implement universal FAFSA policies that increase FAFSA completion
- Designate a state-level agency, initiative, or campaign with responsibility for college and career readiness programming
- Shift state financial aid programs toward need-based, rather than merit-based, awards
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9/27/2022

HI! I'M GLAD TO BE HERE



Bill DeBaun

Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives

National College Attainment Network

debaunb@ncan.org

NCAN WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

NCAN pursues its mission by building network capacity, advocating for policy solutions, and supporting systems change

**Build network
capacity**

Bolster the skills and competencies of college access and success **leaders and practitioners** through **professional development, news from the field, data, and tools**

**Advocate for
policy
solutions**

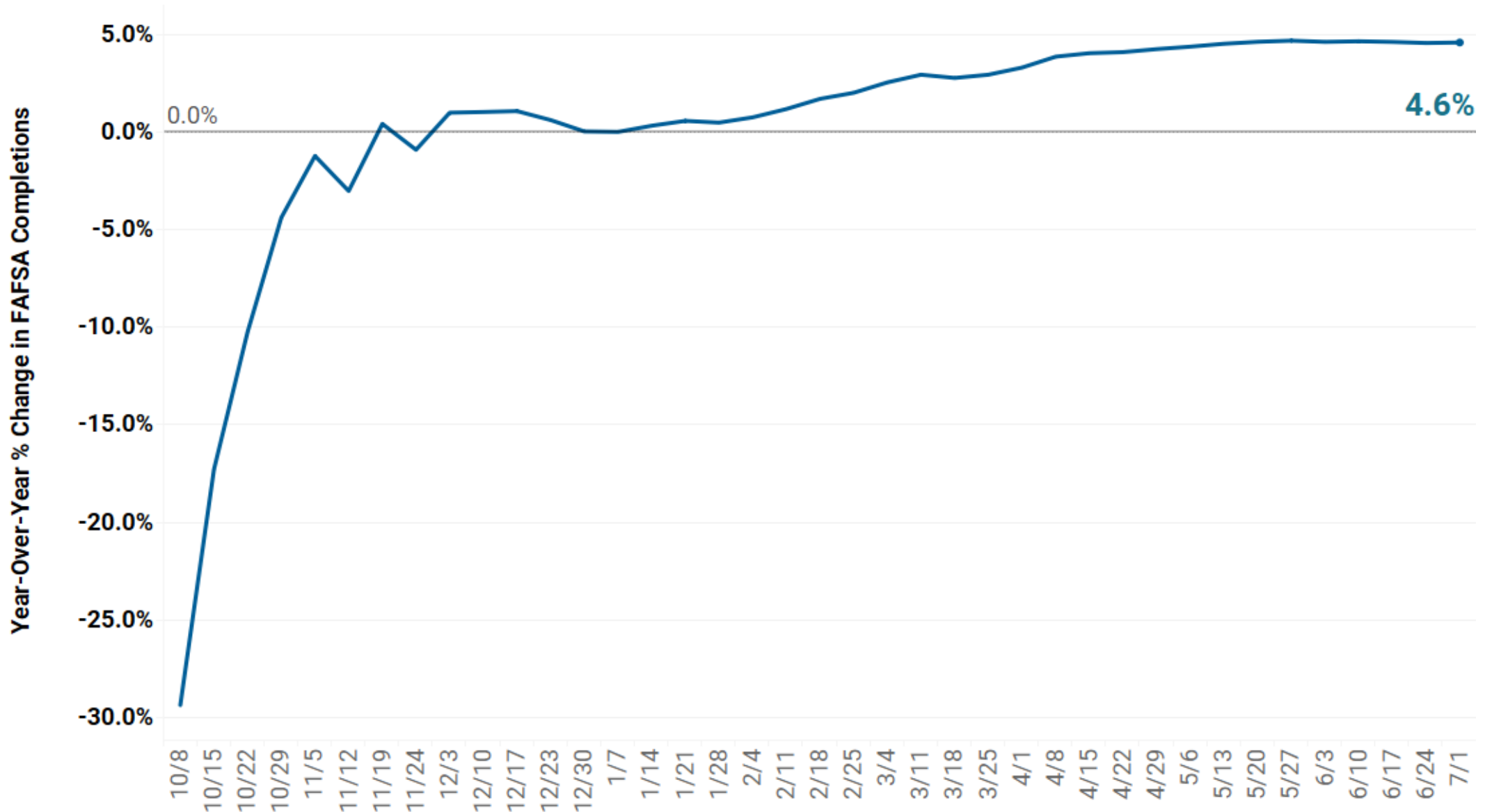
Advocate for equitable college completion rates by amplifying a range of **policy solutions, mobilizing members, and leveraging student voice**

**Support
systems
change**

Help school districts, higher education institutions, and other community stakeholders to **adopt effective strategies for students**

**FAFSA COMPLETION AS
THE CANARY IN THE
COAL MINE FOR
POSTSECONDARY
ENROLLMENT**

Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA Completions, Class of 2022 High School Seniors, Through July 1, 2022

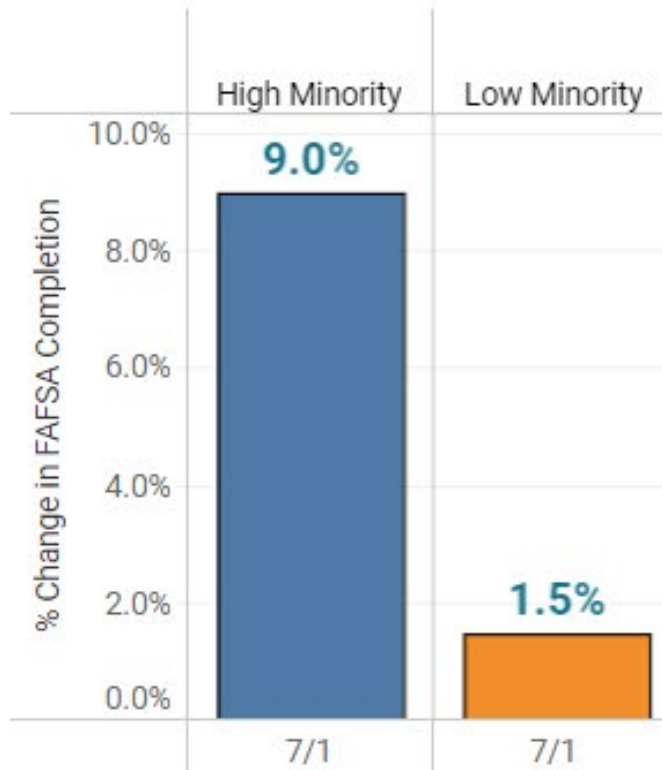


% Change in FAFSA Completion Year-Over-Year by Selected Characteristics

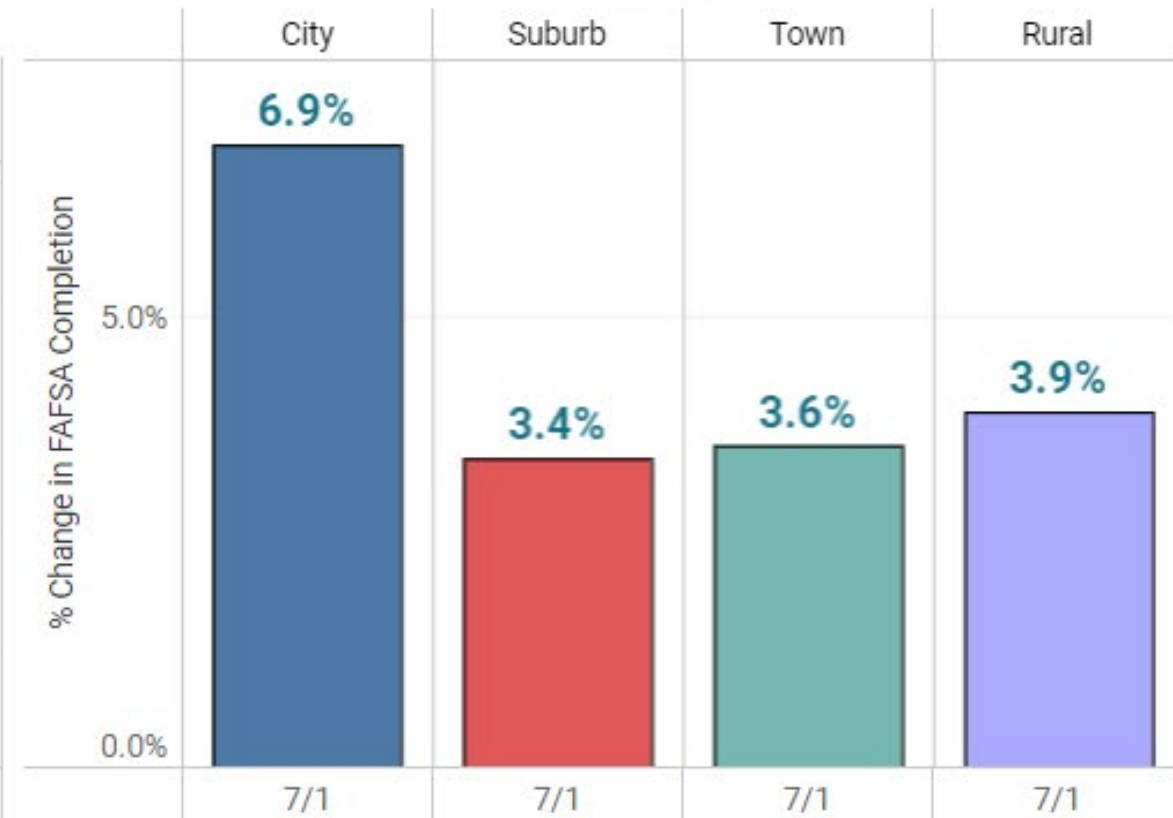
By School Income Level



By Concentration of Students of Color



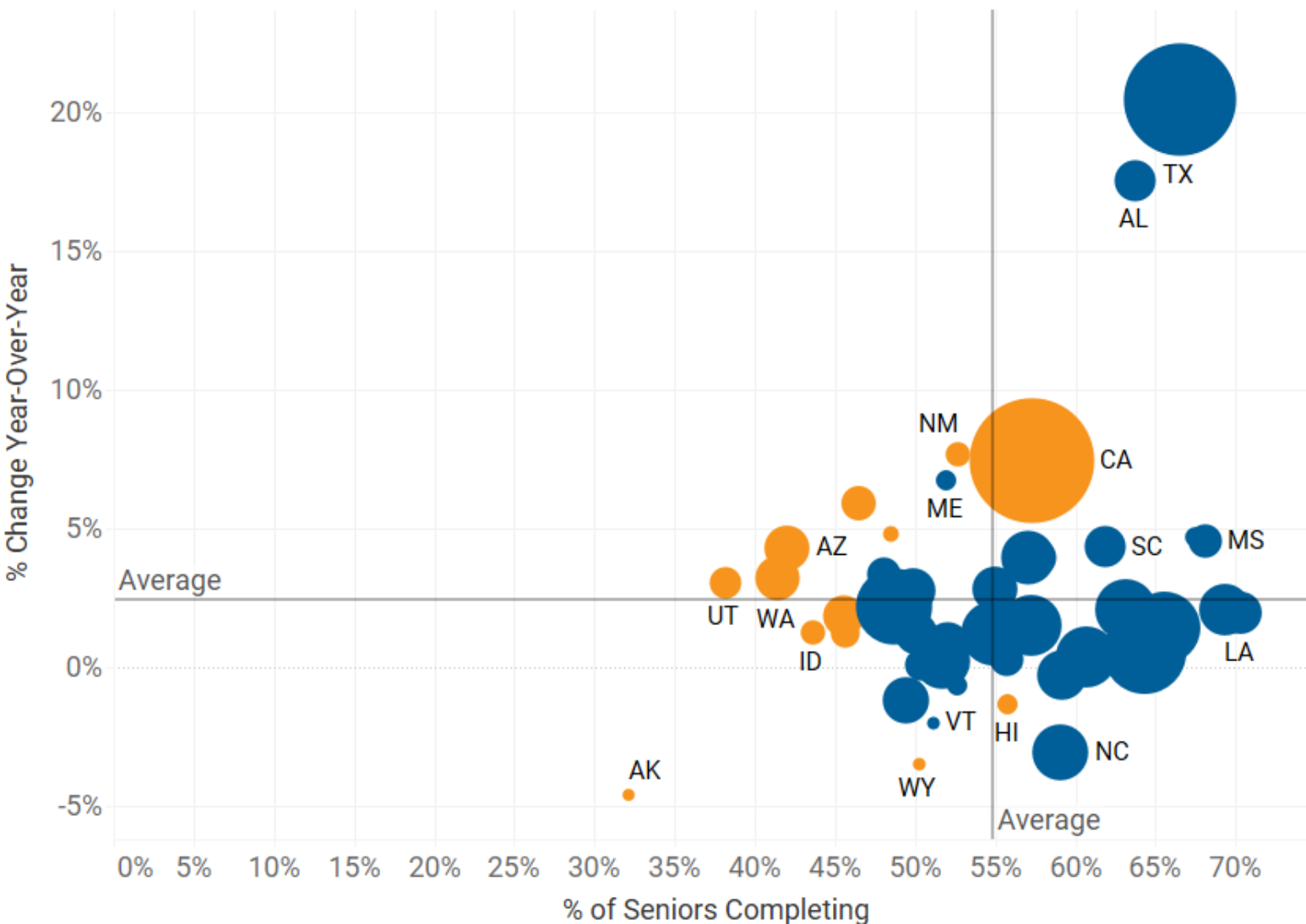
By Geographic Locale



AVERAGE SENIOR CLASS FAFSA COMPLETION % BY U.S. CENSUS REGION, DIVISION, THROUGH 9/9/22

Census Region	Avg % Completion	Census Division	Avg % Completion
Midwest	53.5%	<i>East North Central</i>	54.8%
		<i>West North Central</i>	52.6%
Northeast	58.0%	<i>Middle Atlantic</i>	60.8%
		<i>New England</i>	56.6%
South	60.8%	<i>East South Central</i>	64.7%
		<i>South Atlantic</i>	59.5%
		<i>West South Central</i>	60.0%
West	46.1%	<i>Mountain</i>	45.8%
		<i>Pacific</i>	46.6%

HS Class of 2022 FAFSA Completion Through 9/9, By State, % Change in FAFSA Completions by % of Seniors Completing (Size Weight: # of FAFSAs Completed, **Census-designated Western states**)



On average, **Western states** are below average by percentage of seniors completing, but many Western states saw **above-average year-over-year changes** in their number of completions for the class of 2022.

Looking at the charts below, it's clear that for the class of 2022 many **Western states** saw strong year-over-year gains (on the left), but are still largely concentrated on the bottom by percent of seniors completing (on the right). For larger, more readable rankings, visit FormYourFuture.org

Year-over-year percent change in FAFSA completions through 9/9/22



Year-Over-Year Percent Change in FAFSA Completions Through

	Rank	% Change
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Tennessee	23	2.1%
Louisiana	24	2.0%
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Indiana	47	-1.2%
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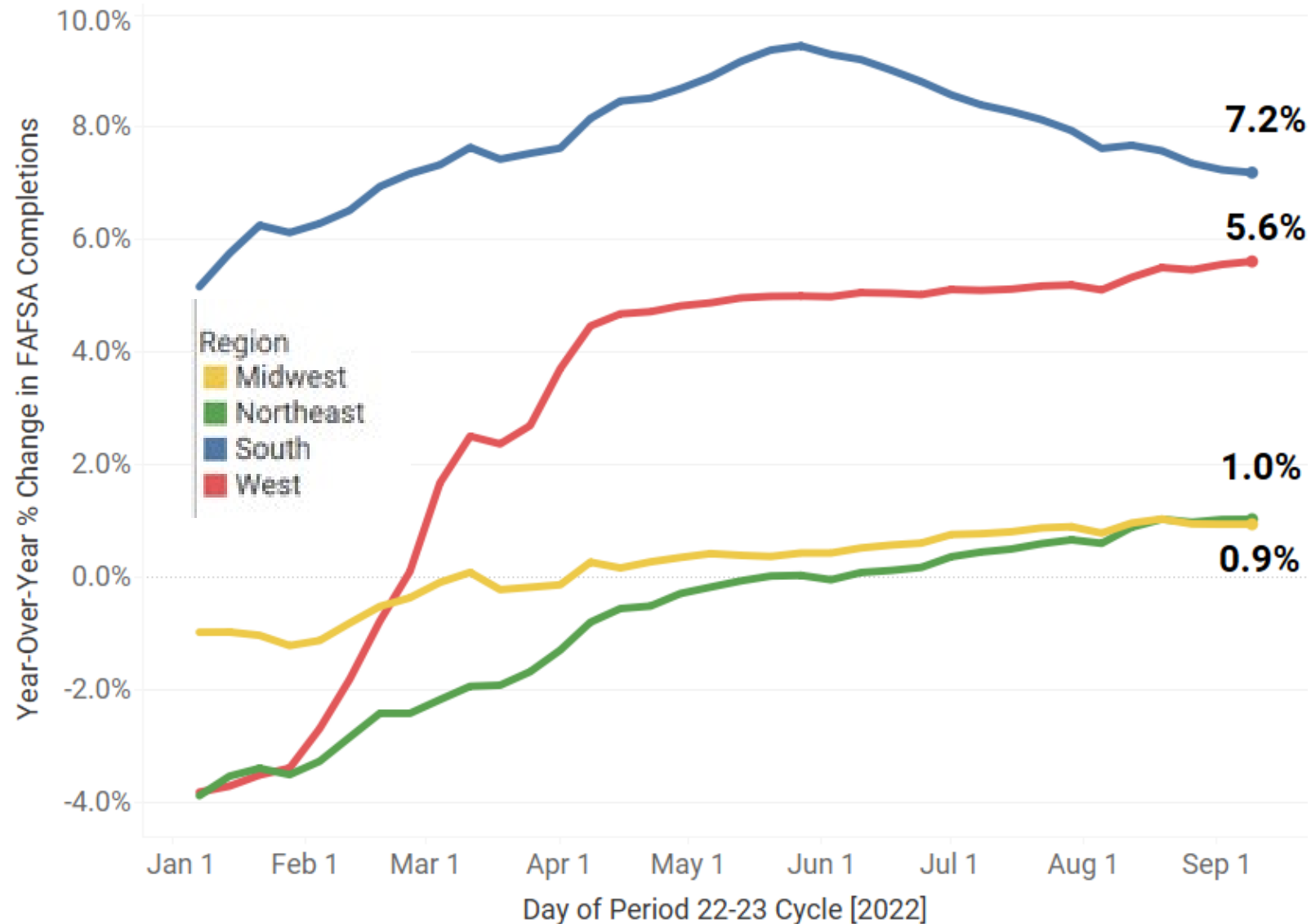
% of seniors completing a FAFSA through 9/9/22



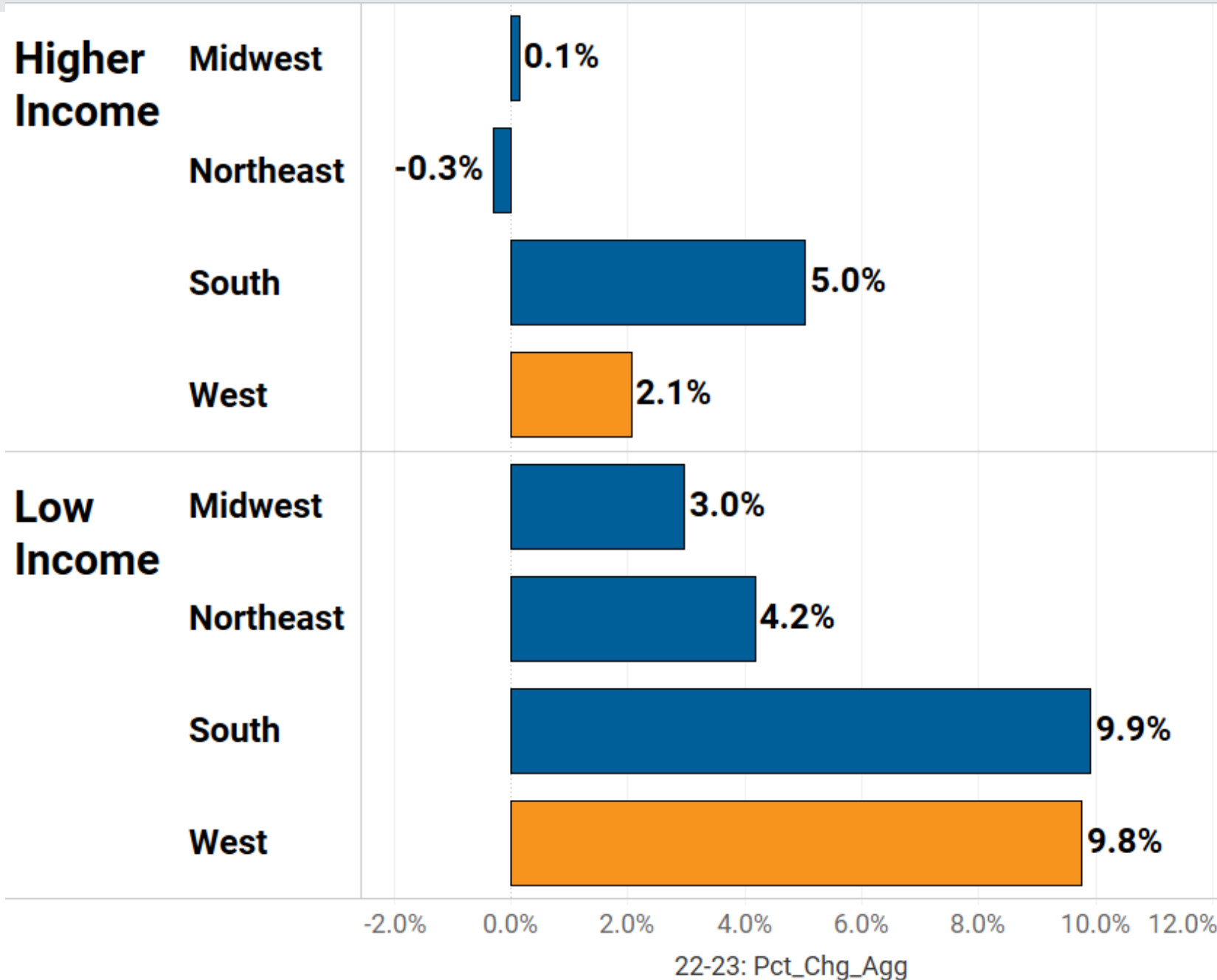
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Georgia	14	60.7%
Massachusetts	15	59.1%
North Carolina	16	59.0%
Kentucky	17	57.7%
West Virginia	18	57.3%
California	19	57.2%
Ohio	20	57.2%
Virginia	21	57.0%
Hawaii	22	55.8%
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Maryland	25	55.0%
Pennsylvania	26	54.9%
South Dakota	27	54.0%
North Dakota	28	53.6%
New Mexico	29	52.7%
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Indiana	40	49.4%
Florida	41	48.7%
Montana	42	48.5%
Oklahoma	43	48.0%
Oregon	44	46.5%
Nevada	45	45.7%
Colorado	46	45.6%
Idaho	47	43.6%
Arizona	48	42.0%
Washington	49	41.4%
Utah	50	38.1%
Alaska	51	32.1%

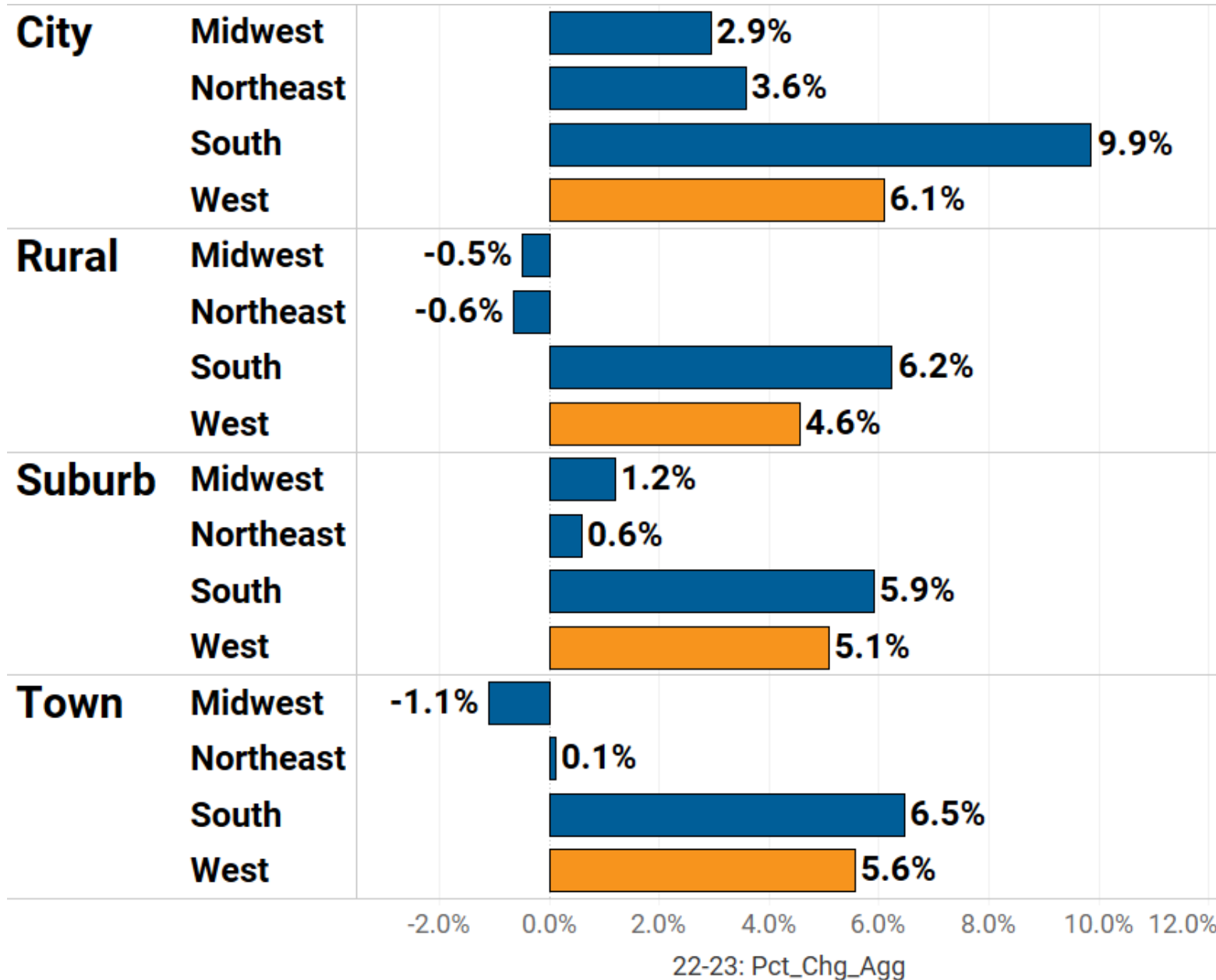
Year-over-year % Change in FAFSA Completions, by U.S. Census Region, 2022-23 Cycle, Through 9/9/22



For the high school class of 2022, **Western states** saw the second-largest year-over-year gains by U.S. Census region.



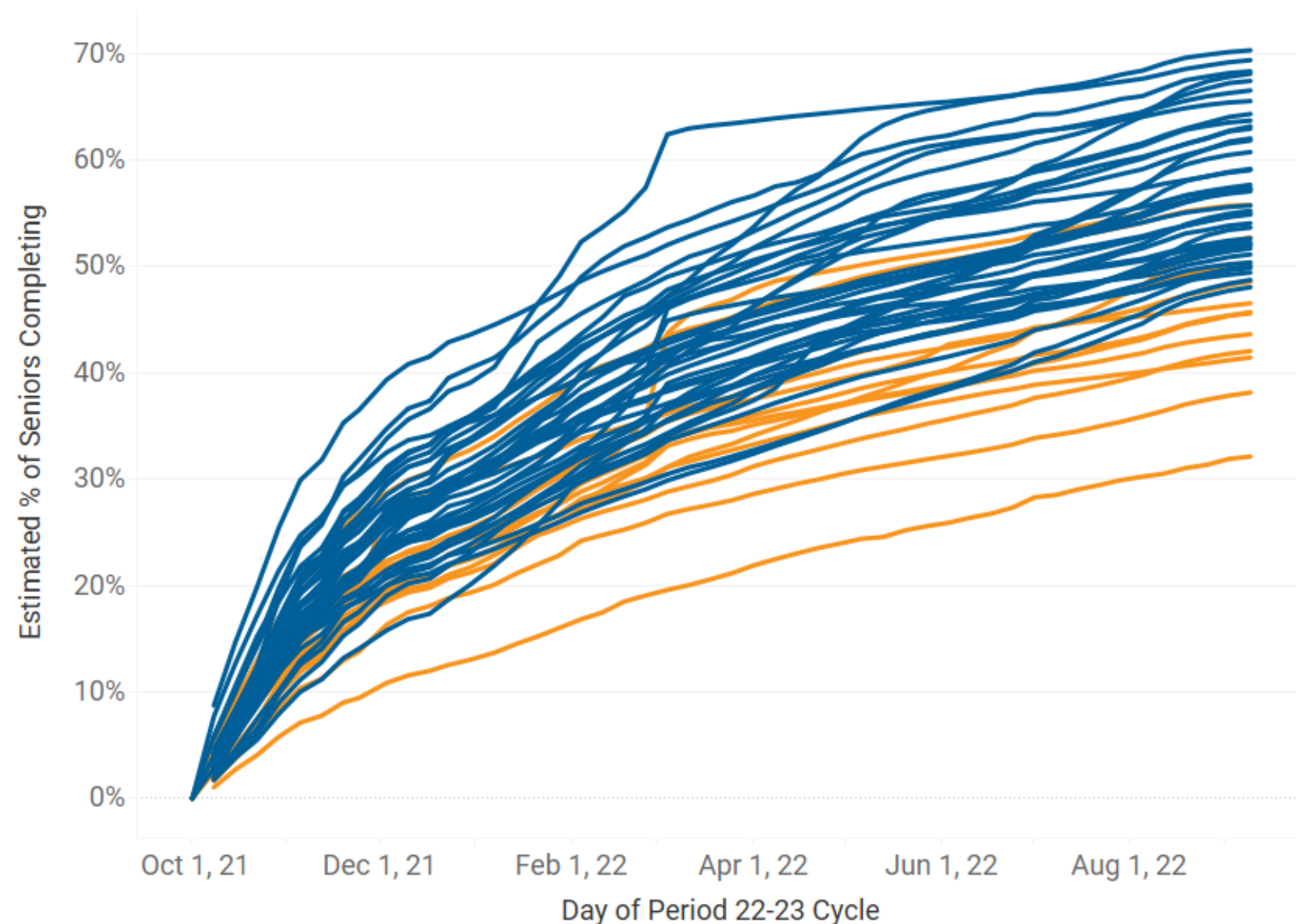
Western states saw a substantial bounce back for FAFSA completions among low-income high schools (>50% FRPL) for the high school class of 2022, on par with national gains.



Consistent with overall and high school income-level gains year-over-year, **Western states** saw the second largest increase in FAFSA completions by high school locales in the class of 2022.

Despite those year-over-year (relative) gains, it's clear that **Western states** have a lot of room to grow in terms of absolute FAFSA completion performance.

Percent of Seniors Completing, by State (Census-designated Western States), Through 9/9/22



Unfortunately, this lagging FAFSA completion performance is consistent with a five-year trend.

State Ranks by % of Seniors Completing a FAFSA On or About June 30, 2018-19 to 2022-23 Cycles

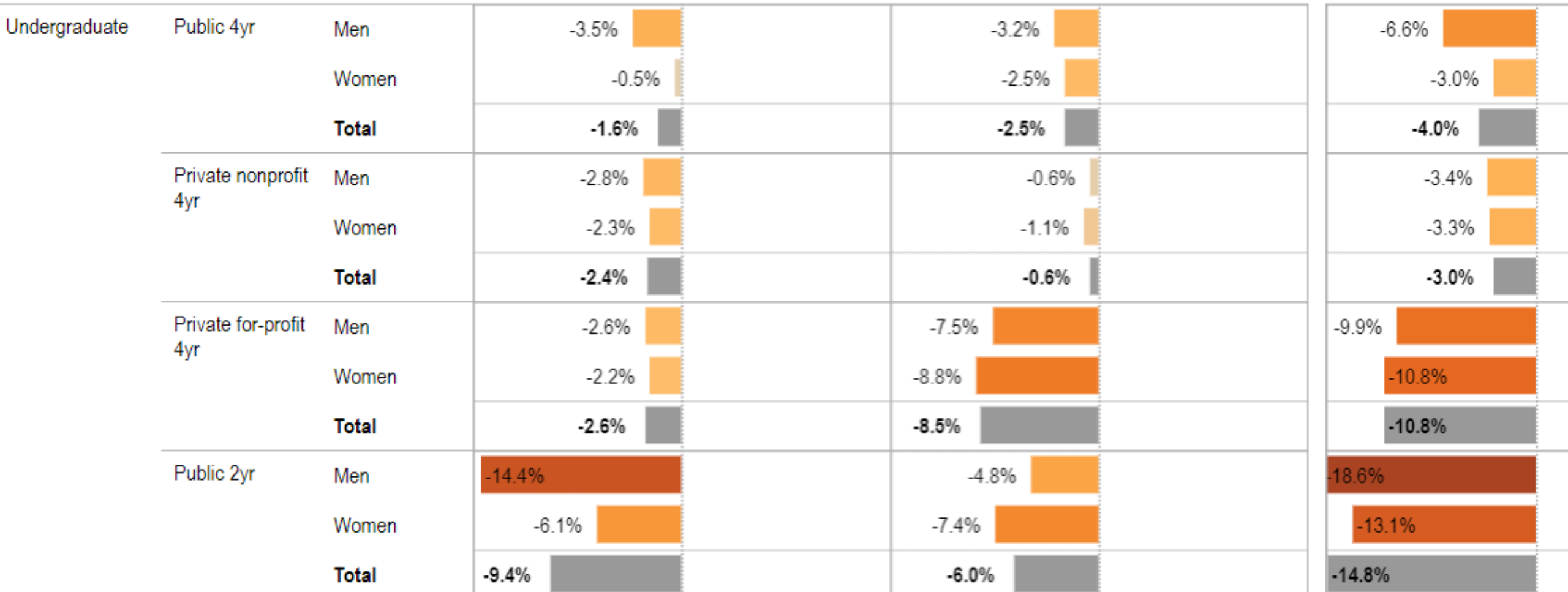
State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Average
Alaska	50	51	51	51	51	51
Arizona	51	48	48	48	49	49
California	30	25	20	27	17	24
Colorado	47	47	47	47	45	47
Hawaii	18	21	19	20	21	20
Idaho	44	46	46	46	47	46
Montana	35	43	45	44	41	42
Nevada	45	41	40	41	46	43
New Mexico	41	35	35	35	39	37
Oregon	39	44	42	45	42	42
Utah	51	50	50	50	50	50
Washington	48	49	49	49	48	49

**MOVING ON TO THE
ACTUAL GOAL:
POSTSECONDARY
ENROLLMENT**

Undergraduate enrollments declined considerably in fall 2020 and 2021, especially for male students

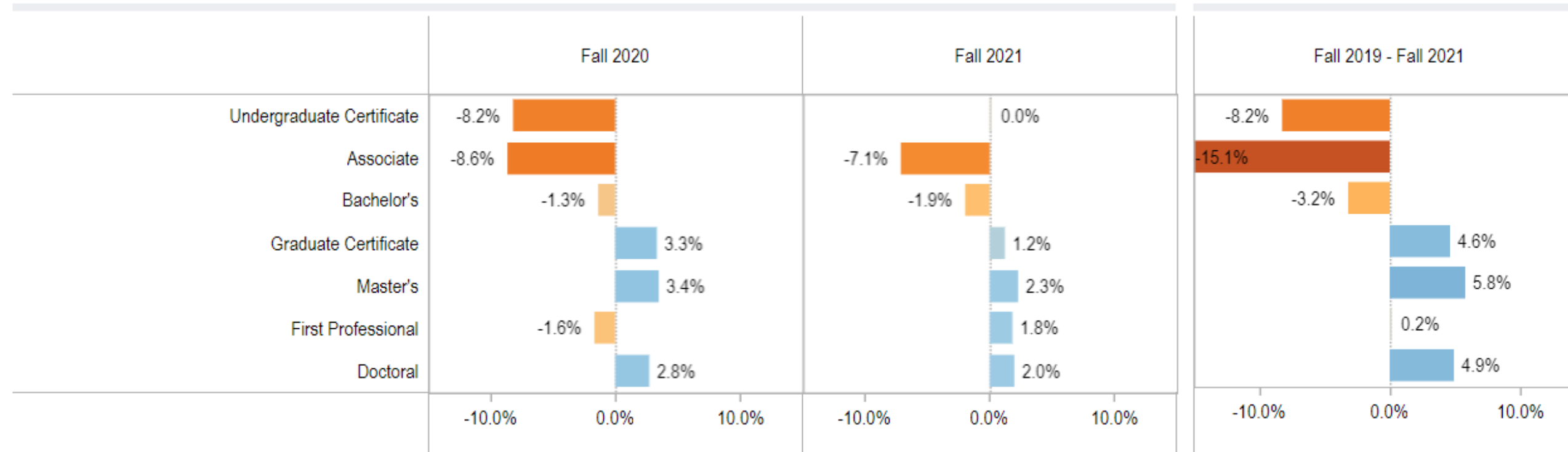


Undergraduate enrollment declines were particularly steep at community colleges

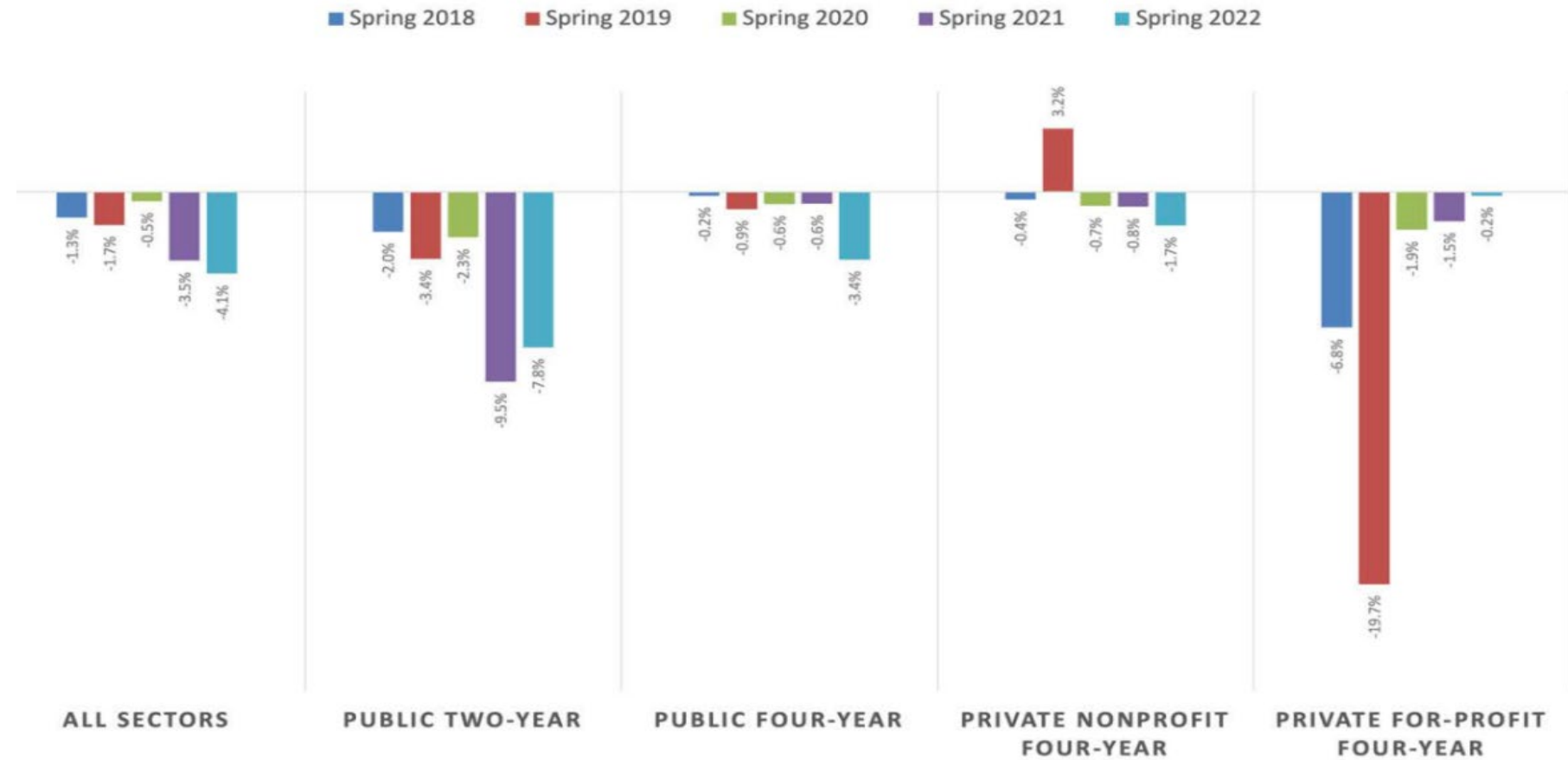


In line with those community college declines, we observe much steeper drops in associate's degrees and undergraduate certificates

Figure 2. Enrollment Changes by Credential Type

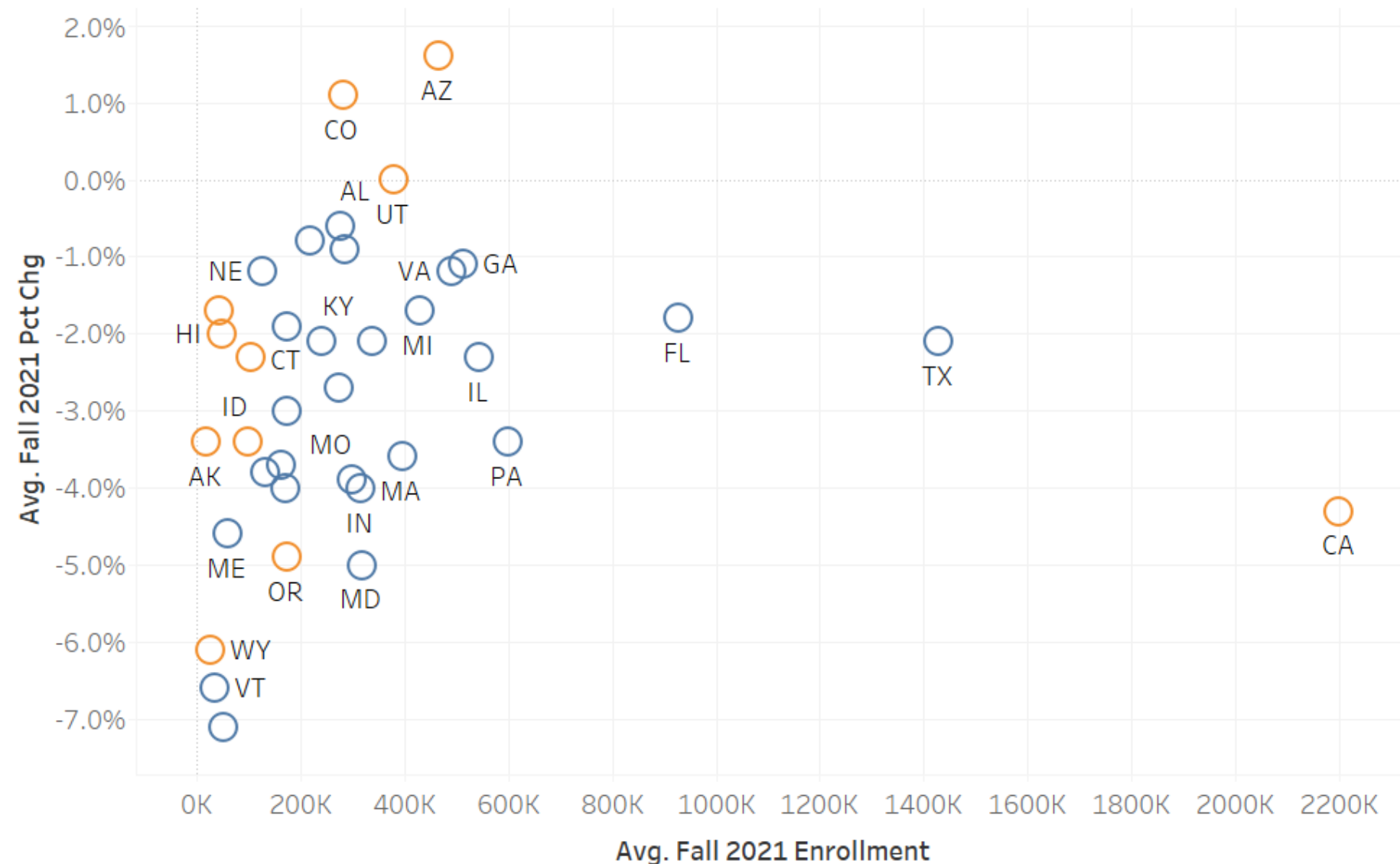


Percent Change in Enrollment from Previous Year by Institutional Sector: 2018 to 2022



Unfortunately enrollment declines persisted into spring 2022.

Fall 2021 Semester Year-Over-Year Enrollment Changes x Fall 2021 Semester Enrollment, by State



West/Non-West
■ Non-West
■ West

In the fall 2021 semester, **Western states** were indistinguishable from their peers by year-over-year change

**WHAT IS IN THE REALM
OF THE POSSIBLE FOR
STATE POLICY AND
PRACTICE TO SHIFT
THESE TRENDS?**

NCAN's State Policy Levers for Postsecondary Pathways Project

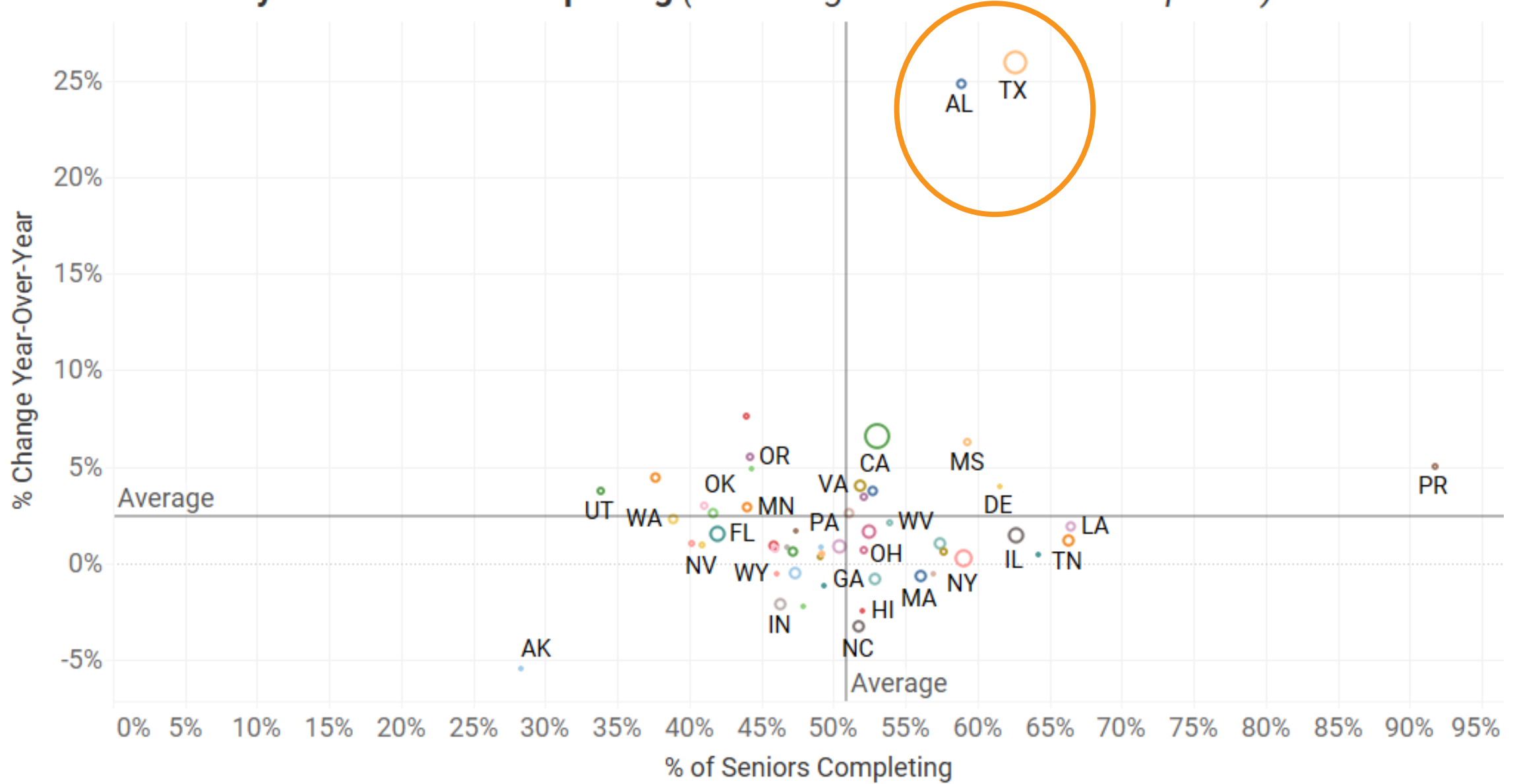
- Provision student-level FAFSA completion data to local education agencies
- Use statewide National Student Clearinghouse contracts to provision postsecondary outcomes data
- Implement universal FAFSA policies that increase FAFSA completion
- Designate a state-level agency, initiative, or campaign with responsibility for college and career readiness programming
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- Increase the share of states' budgets invested in higher education
- Allow DREAMers to access in-state state tuition and/or state grant aid programs
- Expand dual enrollment policies to increase high school students' early access to college coursework

There has been considerable attention on “**Universal FAFSA**” policies

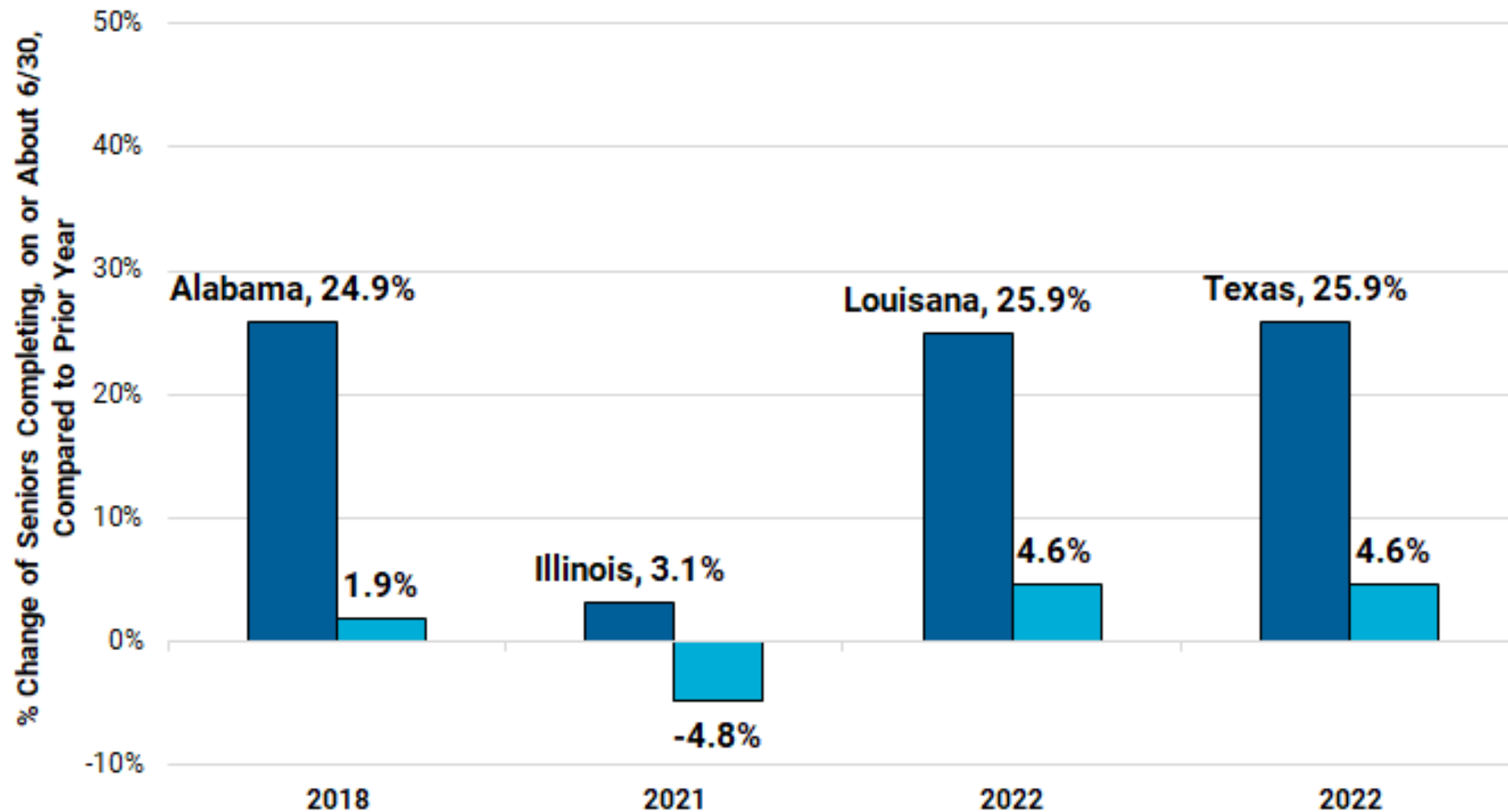
NCAN Recommends that States:

- Require FAFSA completion for high school graduation through legislative or other policy vehicles.
- Include a robust opt-out system for students who are unable to access parental financial information, have undocumented parents, or whose parents allow them to abstain.
- Provide (at minimum) one full FAFSA cycle from the bill passing, or the item being administratively added to a list of requirements before the actual requirement takes effect.
- Make the change administratively, if high school graduation requirements do not live in statute.
- If not already in place, build and provide robust training and support through school counselors and/or college access advisers to ensure students are helped through the process.
- Provide regular data-sharing on completion to high schools and community-based organizations to allow for better-targeted FAFSA completion efforts.

HS Class of 2022 FAFSA Completion Through 7/1, By State, % Change in FAFSA Completions by % of Seniors Completing (Size Weight: # of FAFSAs Completed)



Year-Over-Year % Change of FAFSA Completion in States Implementing Universal FAFSA vs Nationally, During First Implementation Year



REACH OUT ANY TIME!



Bill DeBaun

Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives

National College Attainment Network

debaunb@ncan.org