



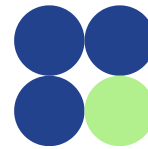
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
TAMPA BAY

leap
TAMPA BAY
COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK



Annual Report

2025



Phone
813-282-1975

Website
www.leaptampabay.org

Executive Summary



This year marked significant progress for LEAP Tampa Bay as we continued advancing our shared goal of increasing postsecondary attainment across the region. With 57.9% of working-age adults in Tampa Bay now holding a postsecondary degree or high-quality certificate (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2024), we are within reach of our 60% attainment goal by 2025. Looking ahead, LEAP and our partners have set an even more ambitious regional target: 67% attainment by 2030.

Our updated strategic plan sharpens our focus through three core commitments: Champion Access & Achievement, Cultivate Pathways to Completion, and Commit to Affordability, Self-Sufficiency, and Prosperity.

Together, these priorities guide our work across the education-to-workforce continuum—supporting students in grades 6–12, re-engaging adult learners, and aligning education pathways with workforce needs that lead to long-term economic mobility. Strategic partnerships remain central to our impact. Through coordinated investments and collaborative action, FAFSA completion increased year over year in both Hillsborough (46.4% to 54.9%) and Pinellas counties (47.2% to 57.2%). Re-enrollment efforts also accelerated, with student re-enrollment increasing 92% since 2023. These gains demonstrate the power of aligning partners, sharing data, and strengthening systems to remove barriers for learners. Feedback from our network reinforced LEAP's role as a trusted convener, aggregator, amplifier, and accelerator—bringing together more than 60 partners to expand access and enhance outcomes across Tampa Bay. Based on the 2024 Partner Satisfaction Survey (21% response rate), more than 90% of respondents viewed LEAP as a valued partner, and 94% reported being treated with respect. These partner insights are directly informing our strategic planning and action steps for the year ahead.

As we move forward, LEAP remains committed to leveraging the power of community collaboration to accelerate personal, workforce, and community prosperity through education. Together, we are building the talent pipeline that drives long-term opportunity and economic vitality for the Tampa Bay region.





Who We Are

LEAP Tampa Bay is the local college access network of over 60 community partners who connect residents to education and training opportunities beyond high school. LEAP Tampa Bay unites partners to create accessible pathways to education and careers, advancing opportunity across the Tampa Bay region.



Our Vision

A thriving Tampa Bay, where education enables every person to live a fulfilling life.

Our Mission

Leverage the power of community collaboration to accelerate personal, workforce, and community prosperity through education.



Community Goal

Our Goal is that **67%** of working age adults in the Tampa Bay area will receive a degree, certificate, or high-quality credential by **2030**.



What We Do

LEAP, as the Local College Access Network, drives collaborative efforts to expand access, dismantle barriers, and enhance outcomes by accelerating and amplifying the impact of our network partners through three core commitments.



CORE COMMITMENTS



Champion Access &
Achievement



Cultivate Pathways
to Completion



Commit to
Affordability, Self-
Sufficiency, and
Prosperity

1

Champion Access & Achievement

We support our partners in helping students grades 6th -12th be better prepared for educational and career opportunities after high school.

2

Cultivate Pathways to Completion

We assist adult learners to discover pathways to degree or certification completion by engaging with business and community organizations to foster career connected education.

3

Commit to Affordability, Self-Sufficiency, and Prosperity

We will increase awareness of affordable education opportunities and align to workforce needs that lead to long-term stability and career advancement.



How We Do It

A Convenor

Bringing together
diverse partners to
align and collaborate

An Aggregator

Collecting best
practices and sharing
knowledge and
resources

An Amplifier

Spreading awareness
and uplifting success
stories

An Accelerator

Leveraging the
power of partners
to tackle unsolved
problems



**Collaborative
Leadership**



Access



**Community
Empowerment**



Solutions

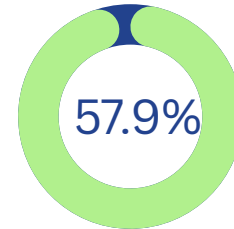


Highlights



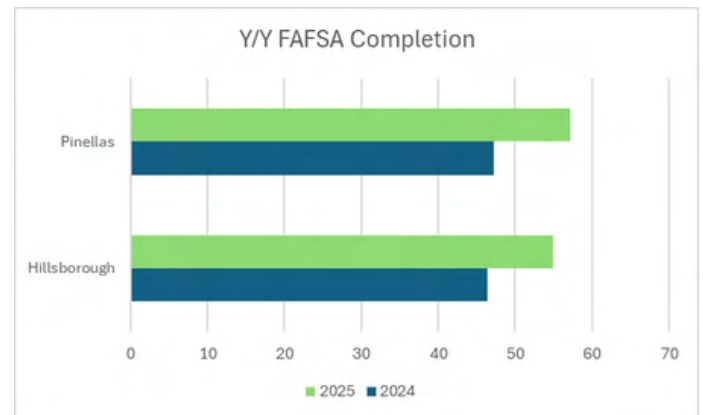
Attainment Rate

LEAP is close to achieving its community goal: as of 2024, 57.9% of working-age adults in Tampa Bay have earned a post-secondary degree or high-quality certificate, putting the region within reach of the 60% goal by 2025.



FAFSA Completion

Targeted investments to support FAFSA completion contributed to strong year-over-year gains in both counties. Hillsborough County increased from 46.4% in 2024 to 54.9% in 2025, and Pinellas County rose from 47.2% to 57.2%, following grant support provided to both education foundations to expand outreach and assistance.



Strategic Partnerships

Strategic planning created space to renew and refresh key partnerships, reinforcing shared priorities and positioning those collaborations for greater impact.



✓ Collaborative Leadership

✓ Access

✓ Community Empowerment

✓ Solutions

www.leaptampabay.org



COLLEGE & CAREER
READINESS



LEAP at the Hillsborough
College South Shore Student
Success Fest
October 2025



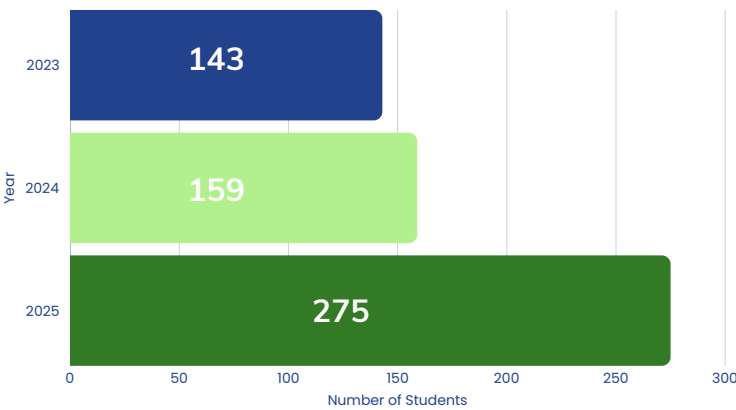
LEAP at Junior Achievement
of Tampa Bay College &
Career Summit
September 2025





IMPACT

Complete Tampa Bay



Through our work with Complete Tampa Bay, we have supported consistent year-over-year growth in student re-enrollment by aligning partners around shared strategies and re-engagement efforts.



92.3%

Student re-enrollment increased year over year, rising 11.2% from 2023 to 2024 and an additional 73.0% from 2024 to 2025—representing a 92.3% increase overall since 2023.

FUSE

Year	Scholarships Awarded	Amount (USD)
2024	230	\$213,110
2025	176	\$171,750
Total		\$384,860



Allen Chen
FUSE Scholar



#FUSE



Student Success

“As someone from an immigrant family, I understand the importance of access to education and technology in shaping opportunities for others. I started my academic journey at Hillsborough College (HC) and used FUSE to transfer to University of South Florida (USF) and pursue a degree in Information Technology. My goal is to pursue a career in Information Technology, specifically in the education field, where I can help bridge gaps and empower communities like mine. I live by the belief that “education and technology are the keys to opening doors of opportunity for all walks of life.” Through the LEAP Tampa Bay FUSE Scholarship, I’ve been able to focus on my studies and work toward a future where I can make a meaningful impact through education and technology.”

The FUSE Scholarship has not only allowed me to invest in my education but also empowered me to give back to my community.



Student Success

After successfully completing the Registered Nursing (RN) Program at St. Petersburg College (SPC), this student achieved a major milestone by sitting for the NCLEX exam in early 2025.

Throughout her final semester, financial assistance helped cover the cost of required supplies and materials, reducing barriers as she prepared for graduation and licensure. Additional support was also provided for her NCLEX exam fees, helping her take the final step toward becoming a registered nurse.

Anonymous
CTB Scholar

#CompleteTampaBay

“I wanted to share the news that I passed my RN program on Monday!!!



Aquilla J. Morgan High School
Tour for LEAP and
Community Foundation
Tampa Bay Southshore
Council Members
September 2025



LEAP and CFTB at the Hillsborough Education
Foundation Annual EmpowerED Luncheon
Septemeber 2025

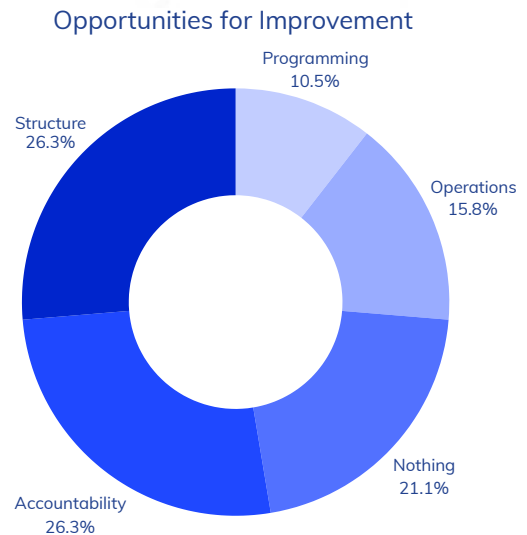
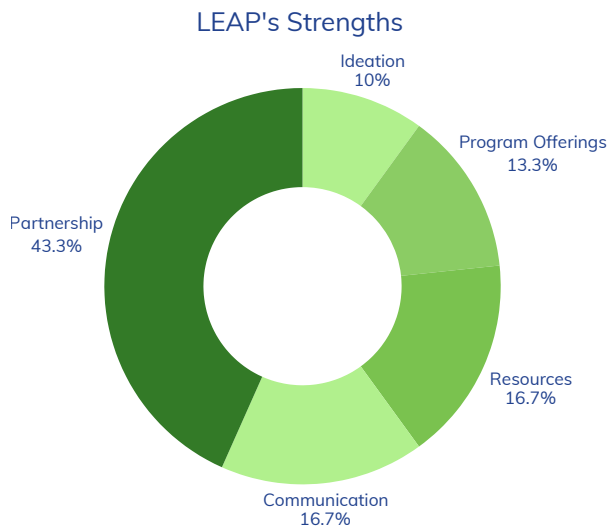
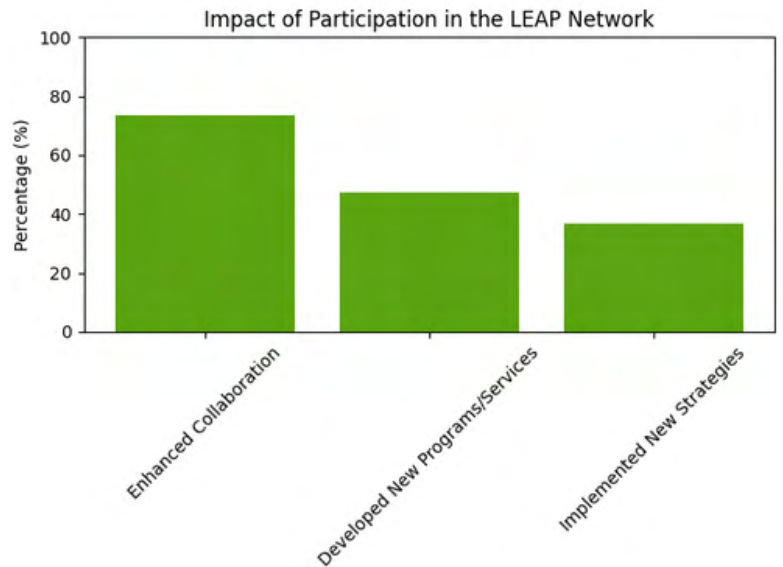
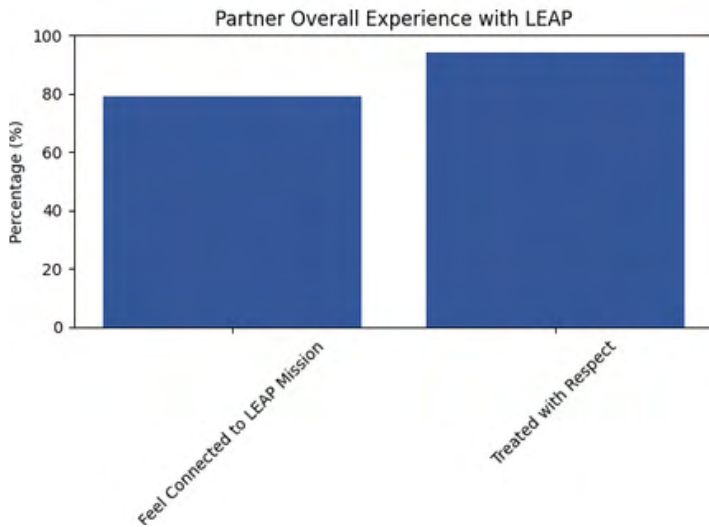


LEAP at the Mayor's Workforce Council Summit-
Ideas in Action
November 2025



Partnership Health Survey

Our 2024 Partner Health Survey highlights partner experiences, network impact, strengths, and opportunities shaping LEAP's continuous improvement.



LEAP in the News



Suncoast supports the LEAP Fuse Scholarship

The Strength of Partnerships



Vision Council



Dr. Ken Atwater- Hillsborough College
Van Ayres- Hillsborough County Public Schools
Dr. Stacy Baier- Helios Education Foundation
Ken Burke- Pinellas County
Honorable Mayor Jane Castor- City of Tampa
Braulio Colón- Florida College Access Network
Michael Esposito- Bank of America
Anna Corman- Hillsborough Education Foundation
Kevin Hendrick- Pinellas County Schools
Kim Jowell- Pinellas Education Foundation
Rhea Law- University of South Florida
Paul Luna- Helios Education Foundation
Dr. Bob Rohrlack- Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Marlene Spalten- Community Foundation Tampa Bay
Dr. Tonjua Williams- St. Petersburg College
Craig Richard- Tampa Bay Economic Development Council



Leadership Council



Dr. Stacy Baier- Helios Education Foundation
Nzinga Barnette- Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Scott Brooks- Hillsborough County Public Schools
Ken Burke- Pinellas County
Belinthia Berry- St. Petersburg College
Anna Corman- Hillsborough Education Foundation
Dr. Cindy DeLuca- University of South Florida
Dr. Jacob Diaz - University of South Florida
Caley Forbes- Pinellas County Schools
Donnika Jones- Pinellas County Schools
Kim Jowell- Pinellas Education Foundation
Nicole Jagusztyn- Hillsborough College
Brenda McKenzie- City of Tampa
Marcos Murillo - Hillsborough County Public Schools
Dr. Paige Niehaus- Hillsborough College
Ann Shaler- Bank of America
Dave Sobush- Florida College Access Network
Marlene Spalten- Community Foundation Tampa Bay
Dr. Mark Strickland- St. Petersburg College
Cheri Wright- Helios Education Foundation



Contact Information



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