



## About the Discussion Guides

Use these discussion guides to generate awareness, understanding, and potential solutions to critical issues in college access.

They can be used with a wide variety of stakeholders ranging from students to educators to parents to community leaders.

This slide is intended primarily for the discussion leader. You may want to **delete** this slide before presenting to the discussion group.



This guide is designed to facilitate a two-part discussion. Be sure to schedule ample time between parts one and two so that participants can do independent reading and research.

This slide is intended primarily for the discussion leader. You may want to **delete** this slide before presenting to the discussion group.

# How to Use This Discussion Guide

## Part 1:

1. Use this slide deck to present a basic overview of the issue for discussion.
2. As a team or group, work through the discussion questions provided in the deck. If you have a large group, you may want to utilize breakout groups.
3. Review the homework assignments participants should complete prior to attending the meeting for Part 2.

This slide is intended primarily for the discussion leader. You may want to **delete** this slide before presenting to the discussion group.

# How to Use This Discussion Guide

## Part 2:

1. Reconvene the group that participated in Part 1 of this discussion.
2. Use the Part 2 Discussion Questions to continue exploring this issue and possible solutions.
3. Identify next steps.

This slide is intended primarily for the discussion leader. You may want to **delete** this slide before presenting to the discussion group.



# Summer Melt

Discussion Guide



# Goals

- Gain a foundational understanding of this issue.
- Explore possible solutions for our community.



# Part 1

# What is “Summer Melt”?

Summer Melt is the surprisingly common scenario in which high-school graduates apply to college, are accepted, and say they plan to enroll – but don’t.

# How Big Is This Problem?

Up to 1/3 of students who have been admitted and say they intend to enroll never show up on campus.



Summer Melt is most pervasive among first-generation and low-income students.

# Common Causes

- Lack of guidance navigating the final steps to college
- Insufficient financial aid
- Missed enrollment deadlines
- Lack of support or even discouragement from friends and family

# Discussion Questions

- Has anyone observed Summer Melt in our community?
- What additional causes might be at play?
- What can we do to reduce Summer Melt?
- Who can help us?



# Homework

## Read the following materials:

1. [Harvard Strategic Data Project: Summer Melt](#)
2. [EAB: Why Summer Melt Happens – and How to Freeze It](#)
3. [US Dept of Education: Summer Melt](#)
4. [The Hechinger Report: Will Coronavirus Problems Mean Even More “Summer Melt”?](#)

## Write down your thoughts or observations.

Bring them with you for Part 2 of this discussion on **<Insert Date/Time>**



# Part 2

# Discussion Questions

- Did anything you read or learned about this issue surprise you?
- After having time to reflect, can you identify additional possible causes of Summer Melt?
- Did the tactics schools used to combat Summer Melt in the summer of 2020 (during the pandemic) spur any ideas for you?
- What are some additional ways we can help reduce Summer Melt?



# Resource

The [CFWV Txt 4 Success](#) program was created to help address Summer Melt. Are your students participating? How could you encourage greater participation?



# Next Steps

- What steps do we want to take to address this issue? If any?
- What are our immediate next actions? Who will be responsible? By when?



Created by West Virginia GEAR UP • [wvgearup.org](http://wvgearup.org)