Getting the city’s students through college, not just to it, needs to be a higher priority than it’s ever been for New York’s next schools chancellor. In today’s economy, a college credential has become the single most important ticket to the middle class. As it stands, far too few New Yorkers have one—in part, because an alarmingly high share of students graduate city high schools unprepared to succeed in college. Turning this around will require a sustained effort in the pre-K to 12 system.

In this City & State op-ed, CUF Policy Director Matt A.V. Chaban and Senior Fellow for Economic Opportunity Tom Hilliard assert that the next chancellor has a vital role to play in boosting college success—from expanding college counseling and overhauling the way New York teaches math, to building college-going cultures in every high school, to collaborating with community-based organizations in neighborhoods across the city to build a stronger support network for students.

Read the op-ed here.

This op-ed is a continuation of the Center for an Urban Future’s extensive research on higher education in New York, including the groundbreaking study, Degrees of Difficulty: Boosting College Success in New York City.

Photo credit: jodyhongfilms/Unsplash

This research was made possible by The Clark Foundation.

General operating support for the Center for an Urban Future is provided by the Bernard F. and Alva B. Gimbel Foundation. We are also grateful for support from Fisher Brothers for the Center for an Urban Future’s Middle Class Jobs Project.
Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality, and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York’s biggest challenges and opportunities.