

By the Numbers:
How Affordable Access Programs Are Supporting Affordability and Student Outcomes in Higher Education

In recent years, thousands of institutions have adopted cost-saving affordable access programs to help college students save money on course materials. Access programs' opt-out model allows colleges to bundle materials for students and lower costs across the board. Millions of students nationwide benefit from the ease of access, savings, and convenience of these programs.

However, a misguided regulatory proposal from the U.S. Department of Education could eliminate these popular programs from college campuses and replace them with an opt-in model – forcing students to pay substantially more for the textbooks and course materials they need to be successful.

Independent research confirms that affordable access programs have widespread support, help improve outcomes, and have saved students hundreds of millions of dollars.

Affordable Access Programs By the Numbers

STUDENTS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT ACCESS PROGRAMS	
91% Percent of students found it convenient to have their course materials bundled by their institution.	86% Percent of students who stated that affordable access programs made them feel better prepared for class.
ACCESS PROGRAMS HELPED BRING DOWN SKYROCKETING TEXTBOOK COSTS	
88% The cost of books, materials, and supplies for college courses increased by 88% in the decade leading up to 2016.	57% Since then, opt-out access programs have helped drive a 57% decrease in student spending over the past decade.
ACCESS PROGRAMS SAVE STUDENTS MONEY ON COURSE MATERIALS	
\$24/material Students save around \$24 per material compared to prevailing market pricing – a 30% decline. ²	\$130 million Total student savings from opt-out access programs during the 2022-23 academic year. ¹
ACCESS PROGRAMS HELP CONTRIBUTE TO STUDENT SUCCESS	
83% Percent of students believe access programs had a positive impact on academic success.	75% Percent of students stated that access programs helped them achieve better grades.
ACCESS PROGRAMS PROMOTE EQUITY FOR STUDENTS	
65% Percent of students who decided not to buy a textbook due to cost before the introduction of access programs.	21% increase In course completion rate for Black students with an access program

1. Internal data from the [National Association of College Stores](#), covering the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 academic year.
 2. Internal data from [VitalSource](#), based on a study of more than 25,000 courses in Fall 2023.