Definitions

➢ **State college and university:** any of the State colleges or universities established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes including any State college designated as a teaching university.

➢ "Public Research University" means Rutgers, Rowan University, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Montclair State University.

➢ **Public colleges and universities:** state colleges and universities, PLUS the public research universities, and the 19 county colleges.

➢ **County Colleges:** two-year public colleges governed by New Jersey's counties. with each institution serving one of New Jersey's 21 counties; however, Atlantic Cape Community College and Raritan Valley Community College each serve two counties. Also known as "community colleges."

➢ **The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education:** a national framework for classifying colleges and universities in the United States. The framework primarily serves educational and research purposes, where it is often important to identify groups of roughly comparable institutions. The classification includes all accredited, degree-granting colleges and universities in the United States that are represented in the National Center for Education Statistics Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

➢ **Graduation rate:** percentage of full-time, first-time, degree-/certificate-seeking students who graduate or complete their program at the same institution where they started within a specified timeframe, under federal data collection via IPEDS (see below), graduate rates do not include part-time students, transfer students, and students who begin mid-year are not included.

➢ **Completion rate:** percentage of all students – full-time, part-time, and transfer students – who complete their degree at their starting institution or complete their degree at a different institution.

➢ **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS):** a system of interrelated surveys conducted annually by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the Institute for Education Sciences within the United States Department of Education. The completion of all IPEDS surveys is mandatory for all institutions that participate in, or are applicants for participation in, any federal financial assistance program.

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