

## Talking Points

### What is the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (*SENSE*)?

- » *SENSE*, an initiative of CCCSE, is an assessment tool that provides information on entering student engagement, a key indicator of student learning and academic success.

### Why should our college participate in *SENSE*?

- » *SENSE* helps community and technical colleges focus on the “front door” college experience. Grounded in research about what works in retaining and supporting entering students, *SENSE* collects and analyzes data about institutional practices and student behaviors in the earliest weeks of college. These data can help colleges understand students’ critical early experiences and improve institutional practices that affect student success in the first college year.
- » *SENSE*’s purpose is threefold:
  - ▶ Benchmarking — comparing performance by community and technical colleges to national norms. CCCSE has established six national benchmarks of effective educational practice for community colleges: early connections, high expectations and aspirations, clear academic plan and pathway, effective track to college readiness, engaged learning, and academic and social support network.
  - ▶ Diagnosing — identifying areas in which a college can enhance students’ educational experiences.
  - ▶ Monitoring — documenting and improving institutional effectiveness over time.

### Who participates in *SENSE*?

- » From 2008 through 2021:
  - ▶ Over 769,000 total student respondents; of those more than 474,000 are entering students.
  - ▶ Administrations have occurred at 489 colleges from 47 states and the District of Columbia, plus British Columbia, Nova Scotia, the Marshall Islands, and the Mariana Islands.
  - ▶ Colleges that have participated in *SENSE* represent a total student enrollment of just over 3.7 million.
- » More information about *SENSE* can be found here: <https://www.ccsse.org/sense/aboutsurvey/>

### How is *SENSE* administered?

- » *SENSE* is administered in the fall academic term during the fourth and fifth class weeks.
- » For the in-class administration, the survey is administered as a pencil-and-paper survey and is designed to be completed in one 50 minute class period.
  - ▶ A random sample stratified by class start time is pulled from all spring for-credit courses. The sampling unit is the class that is comprised of students, and the random selection of students is the principle objective.
- » For the online administration, in order to boost responses, *SENSE* does not employ a sampling strategy. Instead, the online survey invitation is sent to all students who are enrolled in survey-eligible courses.