**GET TO THE STARTING LINE**
A game about paying for community college in California when you don’t have a high school diploma

**Instructions:** Each player is an adult without a high school diploma or GED. All players start off next to square one together. Roll the dice to determine who goes first. Players begin each turn by rolling a single dice. **First,** move your piece the number of spaces indicated on the dice, read aloud the corresponding text below, and comply with any instructions like “move back 3 spaces.” **Then,** if you land on a ladder, advance to the space where you see the highest rung. **Or,** if you land on a slide, follow it down. This concludes your turn. (Remember the immigration status that you roll in the second turn; it affects play the rest of the game!)

**TURN 1** Why I didn’t finish high school

Roll a … That means …

1. I had a school-related reason, such as disengagement, disability, suspension, missed days, not feeling safe, or expulsion. ☐
2. I needed to take care of my child or family member. ☑
3. I needed to work. ☐
4. I didn’t have an example in my parents; they don’t have high school diplomas. ☐
5. I have at some point lived in poverty, which makes me three times more likely than affluent peers not to attain a high school diploma. ☐
6. I wasn’t proficient in reading by third grade, which makes me four times more likely than proficient peers not to complete high school. ☐

**TURN 2** Immigration status (keep track of your status from this turn; it affects play through the rest of the game)

Roll a … That means …

1, 2 or 3. I’m an undocumented immigrant. ☐
4, 5 or 6. I’m a legal resident or a citizen. ☑ Move ahead an extra 2 spaces.

**TURN 3** Paying for College

Roll a … That means …

1. Even though I have financial need, I don’t qualify for free tuition from the local Promise program because I didn’t come directly from high school. ☐
2. I qualify for free tuition via California Promise (formerly BOG), but it doesn’t cover books or child care. ☐
3. I would qualify for EOPS assistance to pay for books and child care — except it requires full-time enrollment and I work full time. ☐
4. If I am a legal resident, I pay resident tuition of $46 per unit. Stay on this space. But if I am undocumented, I pay nonresident tuition of $277 per unit (I do not qualify for support under AB 540, which was intended to aid undocumented students, because I did not graduate from high school). Move back 3 spaces. ☑
5. I can get state financial aid but not federal aid such as a Pell Grant because I don’t have a high school diploma or GED. Move ahead 2 spaces. ☐
6. I can afford tuition but not other college expenses so I’ll try to get by without books — just like seven out of 10 students nationally. ☐
**TURN 4 Ability to Benefit – a method of qualifying for federal financial aid for college without a high school diploma**

**Roll a ... That means ...**

1 or 2 I take and pass a federally approved, standardized test before I enroll in a career pathway and learn. I am eligible for federal financial aid and get extra career counseling. Congratulations! Move ahead 10 spaces if you are a legal resident. If you are undocumented, stay where you are. (Even though DACA students can fill out the FAFSA and receive a Student Aid Report, they are not eligible for federal financial aid.)

3 or 4 I enroll in a career pathway and then pass (and pay for or finance) the first six units myself, which makes me eligible for federal financial aid and get extra career counseling. Congratulations! Move ahead 10 spaces if you are a legal resident. If you are undocumented, stay where you are. (Even though DACA students can fill out the FAFSA and receive a Student Aid Report, they are not eligible for federal financial aid.)

5 or 6 I can soon take advantage of a new California-defined option to qualify for aid under Ability to Benefit. This is yet to be determined: Keep an eye out! Stay put for now.

**TURN 5 Dual Enrollment – now available for adults in GED and HSE programs, and eligibility is now unrelated to immigration status.**

**Roll a ... That means ...**

1, 2 or 3 I enroll in my local adult school GED/HSE program, apply to community college as a “special admission” student, and take college classes part time. Move ahead 5 spaces.

4, 5 or 6 I enroll in my local adult school GED/HSE program, apply to the local community college as a “special admission” student, and take college classes part time. PLUS the college and adult school have a great partnership so the college offers classes on my campus. Move ahead 5 spaces.

**TURN 6 Advantages to being in Dual Enrollment**

**Roll a ... That means ...**

1 As a dual enrollment student, I can see counselors and tutors at both the adult school and college. Move ahead 5 spaces.

2 I can get help navigating the college enrollment process. Move ahead 5 spaces.

3 I can take college courses — if they’re offered on my adult school campus — with students I already know. Move ahead 5 spaces.

4 I can likely take college courses for free because most colleges offer dual enrollment for free (and my immigration status doesn’t affect my ability to participate in dual enrollment). Move ahead 5 spaces.

5 This structured transition into college builds my self-efficacy. Move ahead 5 spaces.

6 My college courses can count toward my HSE program. Move ahead 5 spaces.

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