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### Pathways to “Success”

What is “success?” Its meaning seems to be different for every person, but what if someone told students there was way to be “successful” insert Guided Pathways to Success (GPS). With GPS, students are given a path that they follow to get a degree in a timely manner. But with GPS student are limited on what they can or cannot take, putting them in a bubble of their own. This will cause students to never venture outside of their given pathway. Students will just do what they are told to get a degree, but what if they want to see what is out there? Or what if they have to take classes that do not pertain to the degree but must take them for financial aid? “Instead of staying on track for on-time graduation, they “swirl” in place — too often gaining excess credits in unnecessary courses to maintain financial aid eligibility” (GPS 2). Not only are students being put in this “bubble”, but the bubble might have things students are not even interested in. Students are forced into credits that they do not need or want. “On average, U.S. bachelor’s degree graduates earned 12 credits that didn’t count toward their majors — costing themselves and taxpayers nearly \$6 billion a year” (GPS 2). For working class students these wasted credits can add up causing student to have to work longer hours at a job and causing school to be put on the back burner. “Excess credits are estimated to cost more than \$19 billion each year. Of that amount, nearly \$8 billion is paid by students — and more than \$11

billion is the unnecessary burden of taxpayers who subsidize public higher education” (GPS 1). Even though GPS is meant to help students graduate on time and save money it seems to do the opposite of that. “Given that time is the enemy of college completion, all GPS pathways are designed with the credits necessary each semester to stay on track for on-time graduation” (GPS 3). If on time graduation is what GPS is for, then why is it that students are taking classes that are not necessary and costing them money, why has it not been resolved yet. If students look at the bigger picture of higher education, they should want to get a degree and spend money wisely. In order to get their preferred degree, why are they being told that GPS is useful to them? Though it does have a few things that need to be secured and re-established, it will continue to provide strong education for those who seek it.

#### Works Cited

“The Leader’s GPS: Guided Pathways for Success.” Results Coaching: The New Essential for School Leaders (n.d.): 141-66. Web. 13 Apr. 2016. [http://culik.com/1190-winter-2016/papers/ewExternalFiles/GPS\\_Summary\\_FINAL.pdf](http://culik.com/1190-winter-2016/papers/ewExternalFiles/GPS_Summary_FINAL.pdf)