

Key Indicator Tool (KIT) and Financial Indicator Tool (FIT) Benchmarking Reports

State Councils Annual Meeting
Seattle, WA

Ellen Peters

Director of Strategic Research and Assessment
Council of Independent Colleges

April 15, 2025

History and Current Status

Started in
2004

Ease of acces

Use for market position

Assess financial strength



Met the
need for
curating
data for
CIC
members

KIT Sample: [Part A](#)

KIT Sample: [Part B](#)

FIT Sample: [FIT report](#)

*Supplemental FIT and KIT Part C

Rationale for Change

- User friendly
- More accessible data stories
- Validate FIT Score

New KIT and FIT

- Interactive and flexible
- Customize peer groups
- Summary dashboard
- And more!

Next steps & timeline

Complete Dashboard Tool

- Feb. '25. Also develop access/deployment plan.
- Launch in April 2025.

Convene Conversations

- With presidents, CFOs, IR directors, boards – how the KIT & FIT can be most useful
- March-April '25
- Insights will be incorporated into future versions of tool

Quantitative Research on Predictive Metrics

- We have already completed 10-year dataset with dozens of metrics
- Will conduct quantitative analysis, including regression analysis and machine learning
- Goal: identify metrics that best predict institution closure, stress, and success.
- Incorporate findings into conversations to update FIT score

Demo of Interactive KIT and FIT

Next Steps

- Status of IPEDS Data
- Focus Groups
- Study to validate FIT score /identify indicators of closure/stress/thriving
- Continued improvements
 - New data
 - More current data?

Telling the Story (from 2024)

- Students served
 - Low income beyond Pell
 - First generation
 - Percent receiving financial aid
 - In/out migration
 - Majors
 - Students with disabilities
- First Destination data
- Value for taxpayers
- Number of graduates who stay in state, and career
- Funding sources of state councils
- ROI of independent higher ed – economic impact
 - Crucial to workforce
 - Transformative
 - Not elites
- ROI of state council
 - Cost savings
 - Fin aid
 - Advocacy

State Councils Feedback

- How might KIT FIT be useful to your State Council?
- How might KIT FIT be useful to your members?
- What indicators should be used in the summary dashboard?