SECOND-YEAR LIVING REQUIREMENT
STUDENT SUCCESS:
The following data demonstrates correlation of living on campus and student success. The second-year reinstatement combined with strategic programming leads MSU to believe it can further increase student persistence and graduation and close opportunity gaps.
Why MSU Decided to Eliminate the Waiver to the Sophomore Year Live-On Requirement

1. Correlation: There is a correlation between living on campus for two years and higher rates of persistence and graduation (~2.5 percentage points).
2. Disproportionate Impacts: Groups of students who have the largest opportunity gaps also experience the largest gains by living on campus two years (up to 20+ percentage points).
3. Timing: The entire difference in persistence rates for those who do and don’t live on campus a second year emerges during the second year.
4. Causality: Matched analyses of student who do and don’t live on campus a second year demonstrated a causal relationship between a second year on campus and student success.
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5. It’s Not Their Grades: The average cumulative GPA of students who do and don’t live on campus a second year are very similar.

6. Alignment with Published Research: A large body of peer-reviewed published research demonstrates the positive impacts of on-campus living.

7. Alignment with Peers: Two other Big10 schools already have a two-year live-on requirement and two others are moving in that direction. 20% of U.S. colleges and universities require two or more years of on-campus living.

8. New Inputs: The two-year live-on requirement provides MSU the opportunity to extend its highly successful model throughout the first two years. Research on OSU’s second-year program demonstrated that students were five times more likely to persist into their third year (99.2% to 94.7%).
Academic Findings/Support

Key Points

1. Residential learning and supportive environment (there’s a direct positive benefit toward persistence). (Gonyea, R.M. & Fosnacht, K., 2020)

2. The same research showed a negative effect related to persistence for those who lived off campus. MSU data supports these findings, especially among those with low-to-no expected financial support from family.

3. 70% of on-campus students in the study reported on-campus living had a positive impact on their ability to make friends, compared with 47% of off-campus students.
An on-campus study showed living on campus a second year has a significant impact on the six-year graduation rates of some students compared to their off-campus counterparts.

- African American students second year: up to 3-9% increase
- First-generation students second year: up to 2-7% increase
- White students second year: up to 1-2% increase
- Students with an expected family contribution of $0: 50% more likely than their peer group to persist to their fourth year
Persistence and Graduation

Michigan State had roughly **60 fewer students** from each class persist when they moved off campus their second year.

*based on 2013-16 sophomore students*