

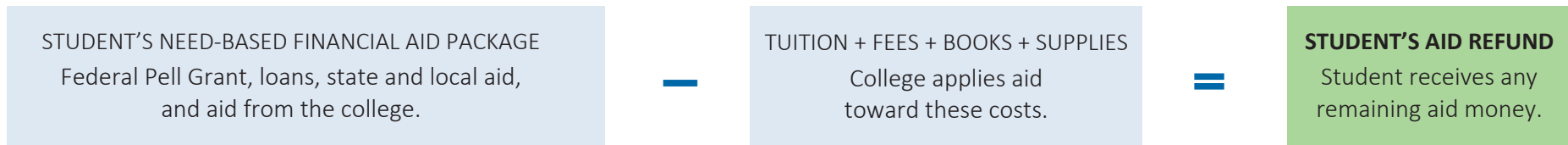
# Aid Like A Paycheck

## Incremental Delivery of Financial Aid to Promote College Success

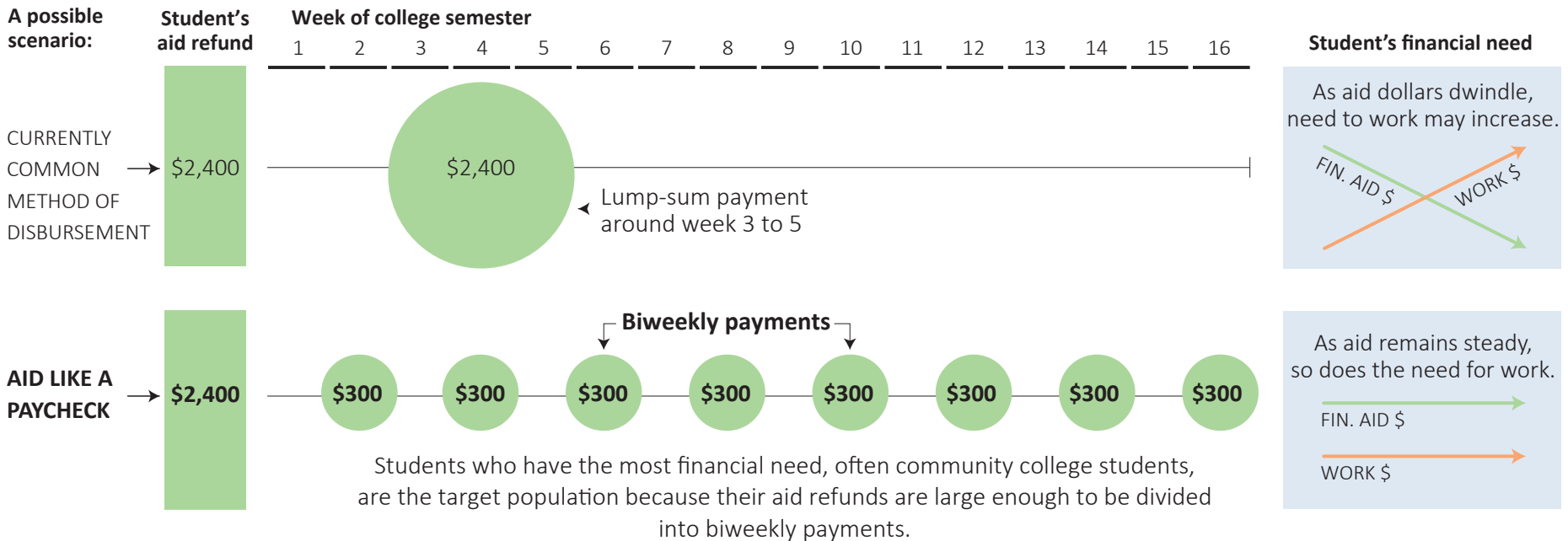
A large-scale evaluation of whether an innovative approach to disbursing financial aid — through biweekly payments, like paychecks, instead of one or two lump-sum payments — can improve academic outcomes for low-income college students.

### How does Aid Like A Paycheck work?

**1. Uses aid refunds.** Many low-income college students receive “refunds” if their financial aid packages exceed the cost of tuition and fees.



**2. Modifies distribution method to smooth student's income and provide an incentive to stay enrolled.**



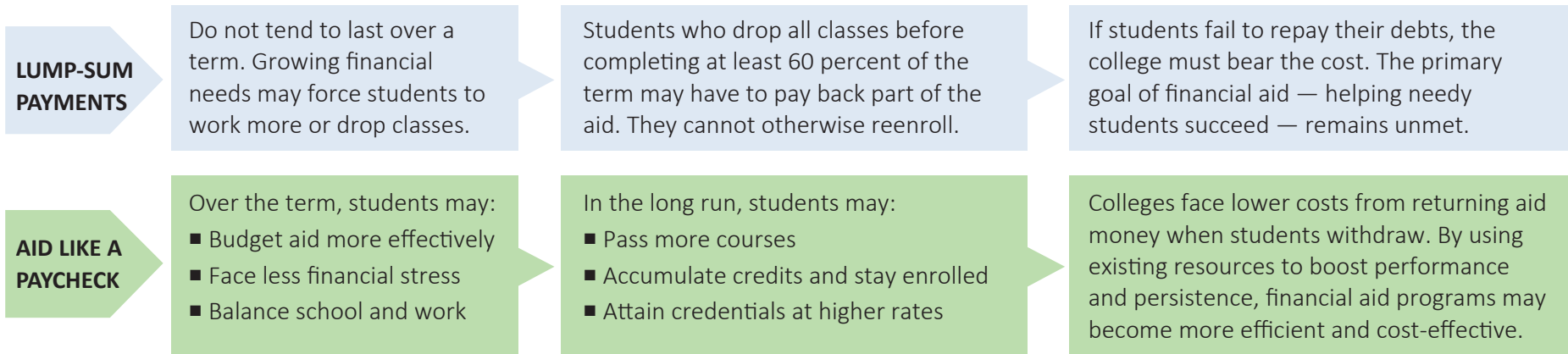
## What are the potential benefits of Aid Like A Paycheck?



May improve the academic outcomes of low-income students



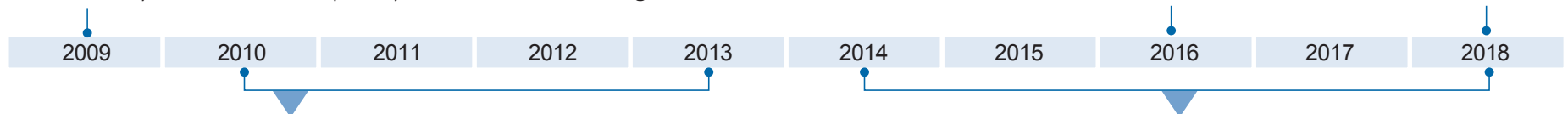
May improve efficiency for colleges and government, which spend billions to support students



## How is MDRC evaluating Aid Like A Paycheck?

Aid Like A Paycheck was developed by The Institute for College Access & Success and MDRC.

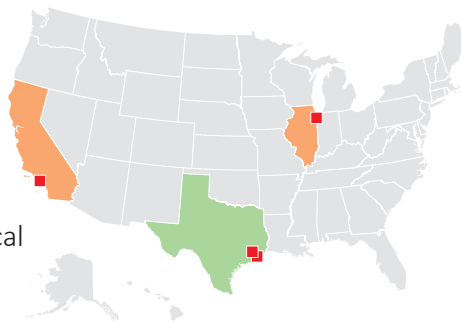
Findings will be released in 2016 and 2018.



### Feasibility assessment

Pilot studies in Los Angeles and Chicago found that colleges were able to implement the model for small numbers of students. It was well received by staff members and students.

Larger-scale implementation requires technological resources; may require increased staffing and better communication to students as well.



### Evaluation of program impact and implementation

A randomized controlled trial was launched in two colleges in Texas; a third college may be added soon. The goal is to:

- 1. Enroll** 5,000 students into the study at each college
- 2. Randomly assign** half to receive biweekly aid payments
- 3. Assess what it takes to implement** the program for this large group of students who receive biweekly payments
- 4. Compare their academic and financial outcomes** to the other half who receive lump-sum payments