Concepts for Today

- What is College Match?
- What we have learned from the research
- College Choice - Factors to consider in selecting a college
History of the Chicago Postsecondary Transition Project

- A project of the Consortium on Chicago School Research
  - 25-year history studying CPS schools
- Utilizes CPS’s college tracking system
  - National Student Clearinghouse data
- Nearly 10 years of research findings
  - And still going!
What matters for getting past the “Potholes?”

For all students:

- Filing a FAFSA
- Completing more college applications
- Applications that meet academic qualifications of students
- Going to a high school with a strong college-going culture!

For Latino students especially:

- Strong relationships with teachers
- One-on-one support from counselors
- Direct support in college planning from teachers and counselors
What is “social capital?”

- “…the resources people derive from their social ties.” —Mario Small

- “…the collective value of all 'social networks' and the inclinations that arise from these networks to do things for each other” —Robert Putnam
Only 41 percent of CPS graduates who aspired to complete a four-year degree took these steps and enrolled in a four-year college in the fall after graduation—an additional 9 percent enrolled in college without taking these steps.

Tracking students through the steps to college enrollment:

- 100 students started with the aspiration to complete a four-year degree or graduate degree.
- 72 planned to attend a four-year college in the fall.
- 59 applied to a four-year college.
- 41 were enrolled in a four-year college.
- 13 did not apply.
- 8 were not accepted.
- 10 had other plans.

Note: These figures are based on the Potholes Sample (see Appendix B for details).
Of students who aspired to a bachelors degree, Latinos were the least likely to plan to attend and apply to a four-year college.
What is College Match?

A formula based on your unweighted **GPA** and **ACT** scores that matches you to appropriate schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite ACT Score</th>
<th>&lt;2.0</th>
<th>2.0–2.4</th>
<th>2.5–2.9</th>
<th>3.0–3.4</th>
<th>3.5–4.0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing ACT</td>
<td>Two-Year Colleges</td>
<td>Nonselective Four-Year Colleges</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;18</td>
<td>Two-Year Colleges</td>
<td>Nonselective Four-Year Colleges</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–20</td>
<td>Nonselective Four-Year Colleges</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective/Very Selective Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21–23</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective/Very Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective/Very Selective Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24+</td>
<td>Somewhat Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective/Very Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Selective/Very Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Very Selective Colleges</td>
<td>Very Selective Colleges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Only 38 percent of the most qualified students in CPS enroll in very selective colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to</th>
<th>Very Selective</th>
<th>Selective</th>
<th>Somewhat Selective</th>
<th>Nonselective</th>
<th>Two-Year</th>
<th>No College</th>
<th>Total (by access)</th>
<th>Percent Match or Above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Selective</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>644 (15%)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selective</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>870 (20%)</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat Selective</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>1,409 (33%)</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonselective</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>722 (17%)</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Year</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>672 (16%)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (by enrolled)</td>
<td>391 (9%)</td>
<td>384 (9%)</td>
<td>1,111 (26%)</td>
<td>414 (10%)</td>
<td>814 (19%)</td>
<td>1,203 (28%)</td>
<td>4,317 (100%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Match Categories: College Access versus College Choice

- Above Match
- Match
- Slightly Below Match
- Far Below Match
What colleges fit those categories?

- **Very Selective:**
  University of Illinois (Urbana), University of Chicago, IIT, Northwestern, University of Michigan

- **Selective:**
  DePaul, Loyola, Roosevelt, University of Wisconsin, Purdue

- **Somewhat Selective:**
  UIC, Northern Illinois, Chicago State, Southern Illinois, Illinois State

- **Nonselective:**
  Northeastern Illinois, Columbia College, Robert Morris, Tennessee State, Alabama A&M
Graduation Rates at “Top Graduation Rates at “Top 6” Schools vs. ACM Colleges

Source: Education Trust College Results Online (collegeresults.org)
The college a student goes to strongly influences whether or not she graduates.

- Our highest-achieving students are being harmed by “undermatching”
- Regardless of selectivity, all college-bound students benefit from choosing to attend better-performing colleges.

**College “Choice” is important because it makes the difference of whether or not a student graduates in four years**
The American Income Distribution is Widening

Real hourly wages by education 2011 dollars

Source: Economic policy institute http://www.epinet.org/datazone
Graduation Rates at “Top 8” Public Colleges

From College Results Online (collegeresults.org)
Graduation Rates at “Top 8” Private Colleges

From College Results Online (collegeresults.org)
Main Findings in Today’s Presentation

The college a student goes to strongly influences whether or not he/she graduates.
Questions & Answers

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