College Ready For Real:

Bridging the Gap Between High School Completion and College Success
530
Access Programs
4,690,000

“College Access” appears in Internet Searches
3,330,000
Journal/Research articles
57% Degree Completion

(Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2017)
With all of the College Access programs available, the US still lags behind in math, science, and English; contributing factors to high school graduates being underprepared for the academic rigor of college work.
## How Did U.S. Students Perform on the Most Recent Assessments?

Select a **Jurisdiction** and a **Result** to see how students performed on the latest NAEP assessments. Click on the **△** to see the most recent reports in each subject.

### Jurisdiction:

- Public and nonpublic schools

### Result:

- Compared to most recent year

#### Most Recent Year Compared to Current Year

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Grade 12</th>
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<td><strong>Arts: Music</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Arts: Visual Arts</strong></td>
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<th>2006-2010</th>
<th>2008-2016</th>
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<td><strong>Civics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mathematics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
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**Key:**
- **△** Increase
- **NO** Significant Change
- **□** Decrease
- **DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

**Note:** DoDEA = Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools). Year shown with achievement level results is the most recent assessment year in that grade and subject combination. Not all assessments are administered at all grades. For more information on each subject, click on the report of interest in the menu at the top of this page under the report tab. Base year indicates the first assessment year in that grade and subject combination.
Note: This is an update of a post originally published Feb. 2, 2015. It has been updated to include more recent data.
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Graduation Rates: Six-Year Graduation Rates of Bachelor’s Students - 2015

*Source: NCES, IPEDS 2015 Graduation Rate Survey*
College Access ≠ College Success
The Secondary & Postsecondary Education Gap

There is an obvious GAP between high school completion requirements and Postsecondary education expectations; that gap is widening in some states and closing in others. American children continue to graduate high school, and enter college, yet more and more students are underprepared for college.
GAP 1.

Academic Disparities in the way “College Readiness” is defined may impact postsecondary student success.
Academic Disparities

Three common areas where high school practices do not align with postsecondary expectations:

• Quality of Coursework
• Time/Years of Study
• Course Type and Sequence Alignment
Academic Disparities

• Quality of Coursework

The extent to which high school graduation requirements reflect benchmarks of college and career readiness.

(Source: Center for Public Education, “The Path Least Taken III”)
Academic Disparities

• Time/Years of Study

The amount of course study required to receive a state’s basic high school diploma in comparison to a state’s public university system admissions criteria for academic course work in math, English, science, social studies, foreign language, fine arts, physical education/health and electives.
Academic Disparities

• Course Type and Sequence Alignment

Course alignment and sequence occur when students must take the same or more rigorous courses than required for college admission. (E.g., Both systems require Algebra II, or three years of math); sequence refers to the alignment for each (e.g. English I, English II)
GAP 2.

Behaviors considered “normal” at the high school level may contribute to self-sabotaging in first year college students.
Behavioral Disparities

Students may experience major issues when they transition from secondary to postsecondary life. Below are examples of such behaviors.

- Self-management (organizational, time, health)
- Self-advocacy skills (help-seeking, speaking up for self)
- Personal responsibility (You are responsible for your actions, not parents)
- Adjustment (independence vs dependency)
Behavioral Disparities

Secondary Institutions
• Less demanding coursework
• Allow time for makeup work
• Memorization of material
• Dependence on Parents/Teachers
• Assignments completed in class

Postsecondary Institutions
• More rigorous coursework
• Due dates are enforced, makeup work nonexistent
• Application of new concepts
• Greater Independence and Self-reliance
• Requires more out-of-class work
Bridging the Gap...

Now that I have talked about some predominant gaps that exist between high school completion and college success, and how they affect students level of college readiness, my co-presenter will talk about a program that has been successful in bridging those gaps and helping students make seamless transitions into postsecondary education.
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