Predicting Success in College: The Educational Experiences and College Performance of Middle-Early College High School Students

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The Context

- Middle College National Consortium
- The “strategic partnership” with NCREST
- Ongoing data collection:
  - College enrollment and performance
  - Student perspectives
  - Prior preparation
  - Student supports
  - School design features and implementation
Growth in College Course Taking (all)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2 yrs prior</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th graders</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th graders</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th graders</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th graders</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Credit Accrual: HS Seniors (all)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>College Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College GPA: HS Seniors (all)

- 2005-06: 2.64
- 2006-07: 2.62
- 2007-08: 2.56
Race/Ethnicity and College GPA (300)

The bar chart shows the college GPA for different ethnic groups. The GPA values are as follows:
- African American: 2.62
- White: 2.65
- Asian/PI: 2.80
- Latino: 2.52
Questions about College Performance

- What affects the college performance of students who were *less* prepared for high school?
- What affects the college performance of students who were *well* prepared for high school?
Research Methods

- 300 students: MCNC seniors in 2007-08
- Three data sources:
  - 8th grade test scores
  - Senior surveys
  - College transcript data
- Analyses of relationships between school experiences and college GPA, holding constant student background
- Separate analyses based on 8th grade achievement
Student Performance in College

- Did Not Meet 8th Grade State Standard (n=117)
  - 2.35 college GPA
  - 30 college credits earned

- Met or Exceeded 8th Grade State Standard (n=183)
  - 2.78 college GPA
  - 42 college credits earned
Which do you think were associated with college success?

- Instructional relevance in HS & college
- Personalization (adults who will help)
- High expectations of HS/college instructors
- Sense of belonging
- Self efficacy in math and writing
- Perceiving self as college ready
- Rigor in HS/college classes
- Perseverance/engagement in HS/college
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High Expectations of High School Teachers

![Bar Chart]

**Expectations of High School Teachers**

- Low Expectations
- High Expectations

Associated Average College GPA

- Did not meet state standards in 8th grade:
  - Low Expectations: 1.76
  - High Expectations: 2.43

- Met or exceeded state standards in 8th grade:
  - Low Expectations: 2.40
  - High Expectations: 2.82
Sense of Belonging to the School

![Bar chart showing the association between sense of belonging and associated average college GPA.](chart)

- Did not meet state standards in 8th grade:
  - Low Sense of Belonging: 1.96
  - High Sense of Belonging: 2.44

- Met or exceeded state standards in 8th grade:
  - Low Sense of Belonging: 2.55
  - High Sense of Belonging: 2.75
Perseverance in College Coursework

- Did not meet state standards in 8th grade: 2.18 (LOW Perseverance)
- Met or exceeded state standards in 8th grade: 2.48 (LOW Perseverance), 2.44 (HIGH Perseverance), 2.82 (HIGH Perseverance)

Associated average college GPA

- LOW Perseverance
- HIGH Perseverance
Rigor in College Courses

Rigor in College Courses

2.28
2.67
2.50
2.84
1.50
2.00
2.50
3.00
3.50
Did not meet state standards in 8th grade
Met or exceeded state standards in 8th grade
Associated average college GPA
Low Rigor
High Rigor

Rigor in College Courses

Associated college GPA

Did not meet state standards in 8th grade
Met or exceeded state standards in 8th grade
A few thoughts

It is “safe” to enroll students with low prior performance in early college high schools.
A few thoughts

- Controlled by school/college
  - High expectations
  - Rigor

- Controlled by student, influenced by school/college
  - Perseverance
  - Sense of belonging
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