

NAVIGATIONAL SUPPORTS

States prioritize the student navigational supports and advising needed to ensure student success in college in high school courses, particularly for those students historically underserved by these programs.

...



This is one of six components that states need to be mindful of to build policy for college in high school programs like dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school that includes equity and quality as a priority. To learn more, see the full report *Unlocking Potential: A State Policy Roadmap for Equity & Quality in College in High School Programs*.



WHY THIS MATTERS | *College in high school programs should not be sink or swim. Programs need to provide support and advising services in order to maximize student success and ease the transition from secondary to postsecondary learning environments.*



Providing Student Supports

For students who are the first in their families to attend college or traditionally underrepresented in higher education, navigating participation in college in high school programs can be challenging. A state's college in high school programs can achieve more equitable outcomes by expanding their notion of supports beyond academics, to help students traverse the myriad barriers that stand in their path to accessing, enrolling, and succeeding in college in high school programs. Equity-oriented college in high school navigational support and advising programs should systematize and maximize approaches for advising and supporting students across both K-12 and postsecondary levels in order to close access and attainment gaps.



Providing Student Supports

FOUNDATIONAL POLICY

► Build into Pathways to Postsecondary Degrees

The state establishes clear linkages between dual enrollment offerings and state postsecondary general education core and career pathways to encourage students to take highly-applicable gateway courses.

Example — California AB 288 encourages school districts and community colleges that have entered a College and Career Access Pathways partnership to create clear pathways of aligned sequenced coursework that leads to an associate degree, transfers to the University of California or California State University system, or a career technical credential or certificate. Transfer articulation information is publicly available and accessible to students, counselors, and families via Assist, the state's web portal for all public colleges and universities.¹

ADVANCED POLICY

► Develop Centralized Resource

The state maintains and publicizes a centralized resource (such as a website) that lists program availability, steps to enroll, and information about student cost and eligibility. The information contained in these resources is represented in a clear and easy to understand manner for students, families, and school staff.

Example — The Montana University System that provides students with information about college in high school program availability in the state, cost information, and guidance on next steps.²

► Provide Training Tools

The state develops tools, resources, and encourages the provision of training for high school counselors and college advisors about dual enrollment opportunities available to students as early as middle school.

Example — The Ohio Department of Higher Education provides professional development and resources for high school staff and college program coordinators in Ohio's College Credit Plus program.³

► Support Intensive Programs

The state provides additional supports or incentives for intensive college in high school programs serving specialized student populations traditionally underserved in higher education.

► Link College Access Programs

The state, through the creation of grants, facilitated collaboration, or prioritized funding, creates linkages between college in high school programs and other college access programs that provide college navigation, financial aid advising, and transition support. State resources should be directed towards high-need schools where students are most in need of support.



Providing Student Supports

EXCEPTIONAL POLICY

Scale Up Effective Supports

The state scales up effective academic supports used in cohort-based programs like Early College High Schools and Career Academies for a wider range of college in high school students.

Certify Counselors

The state develops a certification program for counselors and school programs that offer early college opportunities. Certification programs would cover state statutes and provide counselors with information they need to help prepare students for college and career success. Certification programs would also encourage schools to incorporate non-cognitive skill development workshops for students participating in dual enrollment.

Example – The Tennessee Pathways Certification includes college and career advisement as a component of the requirements for program approval. The certification program incentivizes participation through additional grant funding provided to schools that are state recognized.⁴

Offer Targeted Assistance

The state has developed a strategy to ensure that students traditionally underserved by college in high school programs have access to counselors that are available to provide support through the course enrollment and selection process.

Example – Colorado’s school counselor corps grant program provides funding to eligible school districts to increase the availability of school-based counselors. Approximately 56% of the students attending the schools served by the grant program are eligible for free and reduced lunch.⁵



REFERENCES

- 1 California Assembly, Assembly Bill No. 288, Public schools: College and Career Access Pathways, 2015
- 2 Montana University System, Dual Enrollment Website
- 3 College Credit Plus, Professional Development Opportunities
- 4 Tennessee Pathways, Tennessee Pathways Certification Rubric
- 5 Colorado Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Readiness: School Counselor Corps Grant Program, October 2018