COLLEGE READINESS IN THE ERA OF COMMON CORE

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Presentation

• Policy Context in California
• Research Questions
• Data/methods
• Key Findings
• Policy Implications
• Growing college wage premium
• California faces a large shortfall of college graduates
• Persistent gaps in college entry, persistence, and completion by race/ethnicity and SES
• Weak intersegmental coordination
• Changing policies around remediation
Persistence and Completion Rates at the California State University System

- **Persist to Year 2**
  - 2004: 82%
  - 2005: 80%
  - 2006: 80%
  - 2007: 79%
  - 2008: 80%
  - 2009: 83%
  - 2010: 84%
  - 2011: 84%
  - 2012: 85%
  - 2013: 85%
  - 2014: 85%

- **Graduate in 4 Years**
  - 2004: 53%
  - 2005: 52%
  - 2006: 52%
  - 2007: 52%
  - 2008: 55%
  - 2009: 58%
  - 2010: 58%
  - 2011: 58%
  - 2012: 58%
  - 2013: 58%
  - 2014: 58%

- **Graduate in 6 Years**
  - 2004: 17%
  - 2005: 16%
  - 2006: 16%
  - 2007: 16%
  - 2008: 16%
  - 2009: 18%
  - 2010: 19%
  - 2011: 19%
  - 2012: 19%
  - 2013: 19%
  - 2014: 19%
California State University Completion

Six-Year Completion Rates by Race/Ethnicity

- **White**
  - 2004: 58.8%
  - 2005: 53.2%
  - 2006: 45.4%
  - 2007: 41.8%
  - 2008: 64.1%
  - 2009: 61.0%

- **Black**
  - 2004: 38.3%
  - 2005: 38.3%
  - 2006: 38.3%
  - 2007: 38.3%
  - 2008: 51.5%
  - 2009: 41.8%

- **Asian**
  - 2004: 53.2%
  - 2005: 53.2%
  - 2006: 53.2%
  - 2007: 53.2%
  - 2008: 53.2%
  - 2009: 53.2%

- **Hispanic**
  - 2004: 53.2%
  - 2005: 53.2%
  - 2006: 53.2%
  - 2007: 53.2%
  - 2008: 53.2%
  - 2009: 53.2%
College Readiness

• Many students enter college unprepared for college-level work

• Why?
  ▪ Variation in academic rigor in K-12
  ▪ Lack of information about college readiness
  ▪ K-12-Postsecondary misalignment (placement policies)

• Why should we care?
  ▪ Expensive
  ▪ Inefficient
  ▪ Discouraging
  ▪ Poor outcomes for students identified for remediation
  ▪ Inequality in readiness and in identification
CA K-12 Policy Context

- Early Assessment Program (EAP)
  - Launched in 2004
- Common Core State Standards
  - Adopted by California in 2010
- Smarter Balanced Assessments (CAASPP)
  - Implemented statewide 2014-2015
  - EAP embedded
- California School Dashboard
  - College and Career Readiness Indicator (CCI)
Research Questions

1) How well are K-12 schools preparing students for the demands of college?

2) What are the disparities in college readiness by key student characteristics (i.e., race/ethnicity and socioeconomic disadvantage)?

3) Are the current signals of college readiness on the Smarter Balanced Assessment predictive of student success in college?
Data and Measures

- **California Department of Education K-12**
  - 11th grade scores on Smarter Balanced Assessment
    - 2014-2015 Cohort
  - Individual-level characteristics
  - School-level characteristics

- **California Community College Chancellor’s Office**
  - Enrollment
  - Basic Skills
  - GPA
  - Persistence

- **California State University Chancellor’s Office**
  - Application
  - Enrollment
  - Proficiency
  - GPA
  - Persistence
30% of students are ready or conditionally ready for college level work in both Mathematics and English Language Arts.

Key Finding
Asian/PI and White students meet college readiness standards at a rate higher than African American and Latino students.

11th Grade Smarter Balanced Assessment Achievement Levels by Race/Ethnicity
77% of EL students and 49% of SED students do not meet either the Math or ELA standards.

11th Grade Smarter Balanced Assessment Achievement Levels by Socioeconomically Disadvantaged and English Learner Status.
Students who meet both ELA and Math college readiness standards are more likely to apply and enroll at CSU and less likely to enroll in CCC.

Key Finding
60% of students that meet both the ELA and Math standards apply to CSU

Application and Enrollment for CSU and CCC
Students who meet college readiness standards in Math and ELA are less likely to enroll in a basic skills course at community college and are more likely to be deemed proficient at CSU.

Key Finding
College Readiness for CSU and CCC

- CSU Ready-Math
- CSU Ready-English
- CCC Basic Skills

- Neither Standard Met
- Standard Met, ELA Only
- Standard Met, Both
Students who meet college readiness standards have a higher college GPA than those who do not.

Key Finding
Students who meet college readiness standards have higher grades in college.

College GPA for CSU and CCC
Students who meet college readiness standards are more likely to persist to year two among CSU students and to the second term among community college students.

Key Finding
Students who meet college readiness standards have higher grades in college

College Persistence for CSU and CCC
Policy Implications
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