Lessons Learned

Lessons for Change in K-14 Collaboration

1st Annual Best Practices Learning Symposium for Developmental Educators
Friday, April 24, 2009
8 A.M. – 2 P.M.
Harper Community College

elgin.edu/collegereadiness
The Alliance for College Readiness seeks to improve the college readiness of District 509 students through K-14 collaboration resulting in systemic change.
Goals and Strategies

**Goals:**

- Reduce the number of students placing into developmental education
- Provide the programs, partnerships and support services for student success in college-level work

**Strategies:**

- Bring together all constituent groups
- Create meaningful and lasting partnerships
- Examine high school and college curriculum for alignment and college readiness standards
Success Measures

- Increased placement in college level courses
- Higher in-course retention
- Higher persistence rates semester to semester
- Increased goal attainment
Alliance for College Readiness Structure

- Math Team
- STEM Team
- Advisory Council
- Student Services & Parent Communication
- Reading Team
- Writing Team
- Health Careers Team
Alliance for College Readiness Achievements

PLANS: Plan Learn And Navigate Success

• Alignment documents
• Brochures
• Shared Teaching Strategies

Summer Bridge Program 2008; District wide participation, Curriculum Road Mapping, School Board presentations,
Many lessons, and still learning . . .
LESSON # 1

Data Dissolves Denial

Live and Learn and Pass it On by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
Who are developmental students?
What does success look like?

State Data at:
http://ierc.siue.edu/
http://iirc.niu.edu/
Lesson #1
Data Dissolves Denial

Who are the developmental students?

Our data shows that 52.8% of the students from your high school who attend ECC need at least one developmental course.

We’re an affluent, suburban school. College Readiness is not our problem.

That’s very similar to the average placement in all four high schools in ECC’s district.
Lesson # 1
Data Dissolves Denial

What does success look like?

Percentage College Ready

- Math: 32.3% (2007 FALL), 34.3% (2008 FALL)
- Writing: 54.3% (2007 FALL), 61.2% (2008 FALL)
- Reading: 67.8% (2007 FALL), 74.8% (2008 FALL)

Progress!
LESSON #2

College Readiness is Fundamental
LESSON # 2
COLLEGE READINESS IS FUNDAMENTAL

What skills are students missing?
How does high school differ from college?
Lesson # 2
College Readiness is Fundamental

What skills are students missing?

Compass Diagnostic Scores

- Factoring Polynomials
- Linear Equations 1 Variables
- Linear Equations 2 Variables
- Exponents/Radicals
- Rational Expressions
Lesson # 2
College Readiness is Fundamental

What skills are students missing?

Writing Sample "Basic Errors"
Lesson #  2
College Readiness is Fundamental

How does high school curriculum and instruction differ from college?

Math: Fundamentals vs. advanced content
Science: Process skills vs. content knowledge
Writing: Mechanical basics vs. literature study
Reading: Emphasis/instruction stops at grade 8
Lesson # 2
College Readiness is Fundamental

How does student success differ between high school and college?

- Increased student responsibility
- Out-of-class expectations
- Need for sustained attention
- Demand for higher-level thinking skills
- A ≠ Effort
LESSON # 3

Language is Key

Live and Learn and Pass it On by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
LESSON # 3
LANGUAGE IS KEY

What’s an AYP?
What do we mean by college ready?
Lesson # 3
Language is Key

What’s AYP?

• Speak the high school districts’ language!
• Respect the challenges the high schools face!
• Ask questions!
• Don’t buy the easy answers!

Can we tie this to the learning standards?

We use the TAP and PLAN to gauge how many 1.5’s to run.

Our AYP is going to crash without IMAGE

http://www.isbe.state.il.us/
What do we mean by “College Ready”?

- Passing Grades?
- PSAE/NCLB?
- High School Graduation?
- ACT Benchmarks?
LESSON # 4

familiarity breeds mutual respect

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin
LESSON # 4
FAMILIARITY BREEDS . . .
MUTUAL RESPECT

Who should participate?
Lesson # 4
Familiarity Breeds Respect

Who should participate?

• Teachers from all relevant disciplines
• Administrators at variety of levels
• Student Services personnel
• Community Representatives
• Board Members
LESSON # 5

Just DO it!

Live and Learn and Pass it On by H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
Lesson # 5
Just DO it!

When does College Readiness Start?

• Kindergarten?
• Middle School?
• High School?
Lesson # 5
Just DO it!

Top down or bottom up?

• Board
• Superintendent
• Grass-roots
Keep going!
Lesson # 6
Keep Going!

How do we get collaboration to happen?

• Recruiting
• Understanding
• Empowering
• Adjusting
• Respecting

It's a long, bumpy road — Be in it for the long haul
Questions?

I’ve learned that my teacher always calls on me the one time I don’t know the answer.
Contact Us

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Forms, presentations, reports available at elgin.edu/collegereadiness