The Summer Bridge Program

A collaboration between teachers from ECC and High School Districts 300, 301, 303, and U-46

What can happen if students with potential are given a little extra “boost”? 
The Alliance for College Readiness seeks to improve the college readiness of District 509 students through K-14 collaboration resulting in systemic change.
What’s the Alliance for College Readiness?
What’s the Summer Bridge?

Goal:
- To help the “almost ready” become “ready” in reading, writing, or math

Structure:
- Three weeks of class
- Three days/week
- 18 hours of content curriculum
- Gas card incentives for perfect attendance
- Post-test for placement
A day in the life . . .

- **9:00 – 11:00**
  - Content Course (math, writing, reading)

- **11:00 – 11:15**
  - Break with snack

- **11:15 – 12:15**
  - College 101 in computer classroom
Why the Summer Bridge?

- **Alliance for College Readiness’s Goal:**
  - Increase the College Readiness of District 509 Students

- **Precursors:**
  - Teacher exchanges
  - Teams’ curriculum work
  - Student Services goals
  - Health Careers focus
How were students selected?

Writing:
ACT English score 18 or 19 AND
ECC English placement test of 4/4

Math:
ACT Math score of 21 or 22 AND
Compass Math placement into Math 098

Reading:
ACT score of 16 or 17 AND
Compass Reading placement into RDG 091
Who Participated in the Summer Bridge?

Race/Ethnicity of Summer Bridge Students

- Unspecified: 3%
- Asian/Pac Islander: 6%
- Latino: 20%
- White: 71%
Who designed the curriculum?

- Three Collaborative Teams
  - High school and college math, science, or writing faculty
  - Reading specialists
  - Health careers specialists

What guided the instructional design?

- Skills Gap Analysis
- Combined Teaching Experience
Instructional Design

Writing Class

- topic sentence
- development
- comma usage

- Writing Skills Analysis
  - ECC Writing Placement test
  - Writing Team definition of “College Ready”
  - Skills Analysis Rubric

- Lessons Learned
  - The rubric
  - The mechanical emphasis
  - Discrepancies in standards, instructional focus, and teacher backgrounds
Writing Class

**Thesis Statements vs. Topic Sentences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis stated directly</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic sentences clearly stated in paragraphs</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Writing Class

*FANBOYS* ___
___*pronouns*___
___*clauses*___

Instructional Design

Writing Sample "Basic Errors"

- Introductory commas
- FANBOYS commas
- Subordinate Clause commas
- Relative Clause Commas
- Listing Commas
- Spelling
- Homonyms
- Agreement Errors
- Pronoun Antecedent Errors

Average errors
Key Concepts of Summer Bridge Curriculum

Writing Class

- **FANBOYS**
  - **pronouns**
  - **clauses**

- Emphasize writing process for formal essay
  - Organization
  - Conventions

- Teach students through variety of learning styles

- Provide daily practice with writing and revising

- Require correct sentence structure
Compass Math Diagnostics
Average Scores

Math Class

- $3x(5y-7)$
- $\frac{6z}{7x}$
- $2RX$

Instructional Design

- Factoring Polynomials
  - Score: 55.5
- Linear Equations 1 Variables
  - Score: 46.64
- Linear Equations 2 Variables
  - Score: 44.02
- Exponents/Radicals
  - Score: 38.8
- Rational Expressions
  - Score: 41.58
Key Concepts of Summer Bridge Curriculum

Math Class

- Topics Covered:
  - Linear Equations in One Variable
  - Laws of Exponents
  - Factoring Polynomials
  - Rational Expressions
  - Expressions Involving Radicals
  - Linear Equations in 2 Variables
  - Systems of Linear Equations
  - Applications to Health Related Fields
  - Basic Calculator Skills
Key Concepts of Summer Bridge Curriculum

Math Class

3x(5y-7)
6z/7x
2RX

Test Taking Strategies:

- Slow down/take time with each problem.
- Check answer when possible.
- Think critically about answers

Study Strategies:

- Practice! Practice! Practice!
- Practice exams treated like tests
- Know strengths and weaknesses
Instructional Design

Reading / Science Class

Vocabulary
Comprehension
Content Application
Skills Gaps?
Key Concepts of Summer Bridge Curriculum

Reading /Science Class

- Reading skills
  - Context clues
  - Word parts (prefixes, suffixes, & roots)
  - Main ideas & supporting details
  - Predicting
  - Making inferences

- Reading strategies
  - Following directions
  - Skimming, scanning, and questioning
  - SQR\(^3\), KWL, etc

- Test taking strategies
Key Concepts of Summer Bridge Curriculum

Activities to Integrate Reading and Content:

- Hand-washing
- Liquid nitrogen
- Ice cream
Instructional Design

- Student success
- Time-management
- Support system
- Course management software
- Distance learning

College 101
- Financial aid
- Self-esteem
Key Concepts of Summer Bridge Curriculum

College 101

- Study skills
- Stress management

- College resources:
  - Library
  - Counseling
  - Financial aid
  - Scholarships
  - Tutoring

- Transitions

- Study skills/note-taking

- Stress management
Sustainability?

What do teachers take back to their own classes?

- Shared ideas
- Shared resources
- Experience with new teaching styles
- Companionship of shared task
- New teaching techniques
- New teaching material for their students
- Increased understanding of college expectations for entering freshmen
Students said:

- “Thinking back, I see that I did not remember the basic rules of punctuation.”
- “I will always write an outline from now on.”
- “A lot of stuff I learned was from freshmen and sophomore year!”
Students said:

- “I was surprised about how much time I should spend studying”
- “I learned how to do the FOIL method and how to simplify fractions”
- “I learned how to do elimination with word problems”
- “I learned new ways to solve problems”

Math - Student Reflection
I learned ...

- "Reading isn’t that difficult if I can understand the parts of words."
- "To take time and actually look for the main idea."
- "How to understand what I am reading --like drawing a picture in my mind."

This class . . . helped me to put the puzzle pieces together.

Reading - Student Reflection
Results of Summer Bridge

- **Writing**
  - 67% course placement improvement

- **Math**
  - 88% course placement improvement

- **Reading in the Sciences**
  - 50% course placement improvement

Overall
14 of 20 students improved their course placement
Summer Bridge Marketing and Promotion

Year 1:
- A promotional ad in ECCentials, publication that is sent to all households in District 509;
- Postcard, email and follow-up call to all students who qualified for program

Year 2:
- Early notification to high school counselors, teachers, and administration
- “Advertisement” in ECC Summer Catalog
- Updated postcard
- Auto-generated postcard
- Increased coordination with ECC registration, retention, and counseling
Programming Changes
  ◦ Summer 2009
    • Alternate scheduling
    • Two sessions

Curriculum
  ◦ Revisions in progress
  ◦ Replicable

Future of Summer Bridge
Questions?
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Forms, presentations, reports available at elgin.edu/collegereadiness