



EARLY COLLEGE High School

Removing Barriers to Higher Education

Early Colleges are small high schools affiliated with universities and community colleges that target first-generation college students, students at risk of dropping out of high school, and students who would benefit from accelerated learning opportunities. These students have the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma as well as an associate degree or up to two years of transferrable college credit. Numerous research studies have found that early college students are more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in postsecondary education, and more likely earn a postsecondary credential.¹

Tailored to the context of early colleges, RTI provides support in four areas that we believe are drivers of growth:



Teaching and Learning

Research-based professional learning
Instructional coaching



Leadership

One-on-one executive development for principals
Team-based leadership development



Strategy and Operations

Annual school planning process and early college startup
Community and partner engagement



Peer Networking

Network facilitation among early college staff
Study visits to peer schools

Spotlight: Early College Network



Preparing High School Students for College Success

By the Numbers

42 schools
220% growth from 2017 to 2018

100% participants who agree that skills were improved

Challenge: The Early College Network is composed of principals, counselors, college liaisons, and teachers from participating early college high schools. The group convenes regularly to share knowledge around common problems facing early college practitioners.

Customized Support: The Network aims to:

1. increase leader effectiveness through shared learning and peer support around problems of practice
2. use data to support network improvement
3. leverage the collective voice and expertise of the network to influence ECHS policy and practice.

Results: RTI facilitates regular network convenings, each focused on a specific topic of interest defined by network members. Recent examples include: how to maximize partnership agreements and MOUs; marketing early college; new staff onboarding approaches; and early college design principles.

RTI also organizes group study visits, provides topic-based research briefs, hosts expert speakers, and conducts group webinars at the request of members.

Learn More

All children deserve a quality education that empowers them to thrive. However, each day educators are faced with new challenges driven by the accelerating pace of change. The need to perceive, understand, and act on emerging trends and practices creates added complexity and can strain capacity. At RTI, we're partnering with educators to change that.

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¹Edmunds, J.A., Bernstein, L., Unlu, F., Glennie, E., Willse, J., Smith, A. & Arshavsky, N. (2012). Expanding the start of the college pipeline: Ninth grade findings from an experimental study of the impact of the early college high school model. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 5(2), 136-159.

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