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# COLLEGE READINESS NOW

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## Preparing High School Juniors and Seniors for College



Over 900 students participated in New Jersey's first College Readiness Now program with 440 students achieving college ready status upon conclusion.

### College Readiness Now I: A Partnership Between Community Colleges and K-12

The New Jersey Center for Student Success, in partnership with the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE), worked with New Jersey's community colleges to design and implement a series of transition courses that would aim to get high school juniors and seniors academically prepared for college prior to graduating high school. The initiative focused on students who were living below the poverty level and were not yet considered to be college ready in English and/or mathematics. OSHE provided a \$620,000 College Access Challenge Grant.

In partnership with 65 high schools across the Garden State, New Jersey's community colleges administered the Accuplacer Placement Exam to approximately 4,000 high school juniors and seniors in Spring 2014. Nine hundred and twenty-one students who did not place college ready upon conclusion of the exam participated in their local community college's free College Readiness Now program.

The results were impressive. At the end of the College Readiness Now program, 440 students (48%) were deemed college ready in English and/or math. Nearly half of the students who participated in College Readiness Now avoided taking developmental education courses because of the steps they took to prepare for college level work prior to, or immediately after, high school graduation. As for the remaining 52% of the participating students, our data suggests that they have significantly moved up in the developmental course sequence, with perhaps one or two developmental classes needed until they are permitted to enroll in college-level courses.

### College Readiness Now II: A Renewed Commitment towards Postsecondary Success

New Jersey's community colleges are looking forward to bringing this program to a greater degree of scale in the next academic year with renewed grant funding in the amount of \$2 million, collectively provided by the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education and the New Jersey Department of Education.