

THE BRONX ACHIEVEMENT PACT

Every Student Counts



1. What is the vision of the Bronx Achievement Pact?

By leveraging the resources of colleges and universities and collaborating with existing public high schools, the Bronx Achievement Pact is a comprehensive and scalable solution to the education crisis. Educational indicators in the Bronx are the lowest in New York City, with just 59% of Bronx students graduating from high school and only 17% considered "college ready" by the New York State Education Department. The Bronx Achievement Pact will expand opportunities for Bronx students by bridging the gap between high school and college, to raise high school graduation rates, improve college readiness, and increase college enrollment.

2. What are the components of the Bronx Achievement Pact?

The Bronx Achievement Pact uses a comprehensive strategy that integrates successful high school and college experiences:

- **Early College Program:** Offering students 30 hours of transferable college credits during the regular high school day, with the option of completing an additional 30 credits to earn an Associate's degree during summers, weekends, and school breaks
- **College and Career Exploration:** Building awareness about all aspects of the college process and various career pathways
- **Learning Excellence:** Facilitating focused tutoring and mentoring relationships between high school and college students
- **Summer Support:** Engaging struggling students by sharpening skills in literacy, math and critical thinking and exposing them to college
- **Parent and Community Engagement:** Providing parents with the knowledge and skills to support their children on the path to and through college

3. How will the program measure success?

The Bronx Achievement Pact will measure success in three key areas:

- High school graduation rates
- College readiness
- College enrollment rates

4. How is the Early College Program different from existing dual enrollment or early college programs?

The Bronx Achievement Pact's Early College Program is just one part of a larger, comprehensive initiative to support students within existing public high schools. The Early College Program offers students the opportunity to earn extensive college credit while still in high school with the option of earning an Associate's degree. Students will receive credit for high school and college requirements simultaneously and will earn college credits as a part of their regular high school day.

5. How will you ensure that Early College courses taught in the high school are rigorous enough to meet college standards?

We will ensure that high school teachers have the credentials necessary to be considered adjunct professors at Mercy College. College faculty mentors will ensure rigor of the Early College courses, provide professional development and oversight, and regularly review student work samples to ensure quality.

6. What other types of academic support does the program offer?

The Bronx Achievement Pact offers support and enrichment through Learning Excellence, a program that connects high school students with successful college tutors and mentors, as well as Summer Support, a program designed to help struggling students get back on track to graduate. Tutoring and mentoring programs have been shown to mitigate the risk factors that lead to dropping out of high school, cut down on absenteeism, improve students' attitudes towards school, and increase the likelihood of students enrolling in college.

7. Will the Bronx Achievement Pact assist high school students with the college application process?

Yes. By leveraging the talents and resources at Mercy College to offer College and Career Exploration seminars, the Bronx Achievement Pact provides students of all ability levels with crucial information about the college application process, financial aid, and the multitude of career options available to them.

8. What is the Bronx Achievement Pact doing to help parents play an active role in their children's education?

The Parent and Community Engagement program actively engages parents in their children's education by giving them knowledge and skills to support their children on the path to and through college.

9. How many Bronx high schools will be involved in the program?

Mercy College will partner with Harry S Truman High School in the Bronx to pilot the Bronx Achievement Pact in September 2012. It will expand to include additional high schools in September 2013, and then will continue to expand until all Bronx high schools with a graduation rate below 70% can join the Bronx Achievement Pact.

10. Where will funding for the program come from? How will funds be utilized?

Mercy College and Truman High School will underwrite all initial costs associated with the pilot for the first year. In order to sustain and expand programming throughout the Bronx over the next several decades, the Bronx Achievement Pact aims to raise \$100 million. Funds will be used primarily for training, programming, books, educational materials, and transportation.