



# WHAT IS EARLY COLLEGE?

**Every young person needs a postsecondary credential to thrive in today's world. Yet, as a nation, we fail to provide too many young people with the education they need to succeed.**

**Early college is an innovation that provides traditionally underserved youth with a path to and through college.**

PHOTOGRAPH ©2008 David Binder, Langston Hughes Early College High School

Early colleges are high schools and feeder middle schools that use a transformational strategy of bringing college into high school. Early college schools expose all students to college coursework, preparing them for college and careers, reducing time and cost toward postsecondary degrees, and building a college-going culture for all students in the school.

Early college supports all students—particularly struggling learners—to meet and exceed college- and career-ready standards. Early college replaces remediation with acceleration for these students, and it includes a powerful teacher effectiveness program that supports teachers to use college-ready instructional strategies and administrators to build effective student supports and an engaging college-going culture.

## JFF'S EARLY COLLEGE DESIGN SERVICES

As the implementation partner for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Early College High School Initiative, Jobs for the Future has helped start or redesign over 240 schools since 2002. We have consolidated our experience developing, supporting, and sustaining early college high schools into Early College Design Services, a school transformation strategy to help districts increase college and career readiness and success for low-income and other underserved students. JFF's Early College Design Services build on a decade of success, offering districts proven and cost-effective means to enhance the capacity of their schools and teachers to prepare all high school students for college and career.

- > Early college schools are committed to serving students underrepresented in higher education, including low-income youth, students of color, first-generation college goers, and English language learners.
- > Early college schools establish strong and long-lasting formalized partnerships with colleges and community partners that foster shared responsibility for student success.
- > Early college schools offer a college-ready academic program and a head start on college coursework so that by graduation, all students can earn at least a semester and up to two years of transferable college credit leading to college completion.
- > Early college schools engage all students in a comprehensive support system that develops academic and social skills as well as the behaviors and mindsets necessary for college completion.

Rigorous, independent evaluations have shown that compared to demographically similar peers, students in early college:

- > Complete key college prep courses at a higher rate (SERVE Center, UNC Greensboro)
- > Are more likely to score proficient on state tests (SRI International)
- > Report more rigorous and relevant instruction (SERVE Center, UNC Greensboro)
- > Graduate high school, enroll in college, and complete college at higher rates (AIR)

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**For more information, contact:**

Caesar Mickens, [cmickens@jff.org](mailto:cmickens@jff.org), or visit [www.jff.org/earlycollege](http://www.jff.org/earlycollege)

**Jobs for the Future** works with our partners to design and drive the adoption of education and career pathways leading from college readiness to career advancement for those struggling to succeed in today's economy.



**JOBS FOR THE FUTURE**

TEL 617.728.4446 FAX 617.728.4857 [info@jff.org](mailto:info@jff.org)

88 Broad Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02110  
122 C Street, NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20001

[WWW.JFF.ORG](http://WWW.JFF.ORG)

