



EXPANDING EARLY COLLEGE DESIGNS

With a \$15 million Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Jobs for the Future will expand early college designs in South Texas and Denver, helping to prepare thousands of high school students for college success.

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

Early college is a bold and effective strategy to reinvent high schools, increasing the number of high-need young people who get on a clear path to a college credential.

Over five years, Jobs for the Future and its partners will spread the early college design—schools where all students complete at least 12 college credits by graduation at no cost to their families—to 30,000 students. JFF is partnering with Denver Public Schools, Educate Texas, Brownsville ISD, and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD to take early college to scale.

EARLY COLLEGE NATIONAL RESULTS

- > **93 percent of early college students graduate high school vs. the national rate of 75 percent**
- > **94 percent of graduates earn some college credit while in high school**
- > **76 percent of graduates enroll in college immediately after high school**
- > **23 percent of graduates of early college schools open 4+ years earned an Associate's degree or college certificate along with their high school diploma**

Together, they will strengthen and spread the key elements of this comprehensive school improvement effort:

- > An engaging, college-ready academic program for all
- > A head start on college, including college course-taking, that both challenges and inspires students
- > Comprehensive student support services
- > Organizational practices that sustain these reforms
- > Coaching for middle and high school teachers to ensure all students are ready for college and careers

Both Denver and South Texas are fast-growing regions with high numbers of low-income and minority students. Denver Public Schools enroll 81,000 students, with 68 percent qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. Brownsville and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo enroll a combined 81,000 students, 92 percent of whom are economically disadvantaged. In particular, the early college expansion will help many more Hispanic students get on the path to

college. In South Texas, Hispanic students make up 99 percent of students in both districts, while in Denver, over half (58 percent) of students are Hispanic.

With a strong foundation in place, Denver and South Texas are ideal places to scale up early college. Across the three districts, thousands of students are currently enrolled in college courses, and many high schools already focus on expanding early college. The i3 initiative will build on this work, enabling many more students to get a head start on college and making early college the default course of study.

During the five-year grant period, JFF and its partners anticipate significant gains in achievement for students in the early college schools, including:

- > At least a 10 percentage point increase in students taking and succeeding in core college prep classes
- > At least a 10 percentage point higher rate of graduation than comparison group students
- > At least 90 percent of high school graduates completing college courses

For more information, contact:

Joel Vargas, Vice President, High School Through College
jvargas@jff.org, 617.728.4446

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

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

WWW.JFF.ORG

