



The Cost of Unprepared Students

College Board Forum

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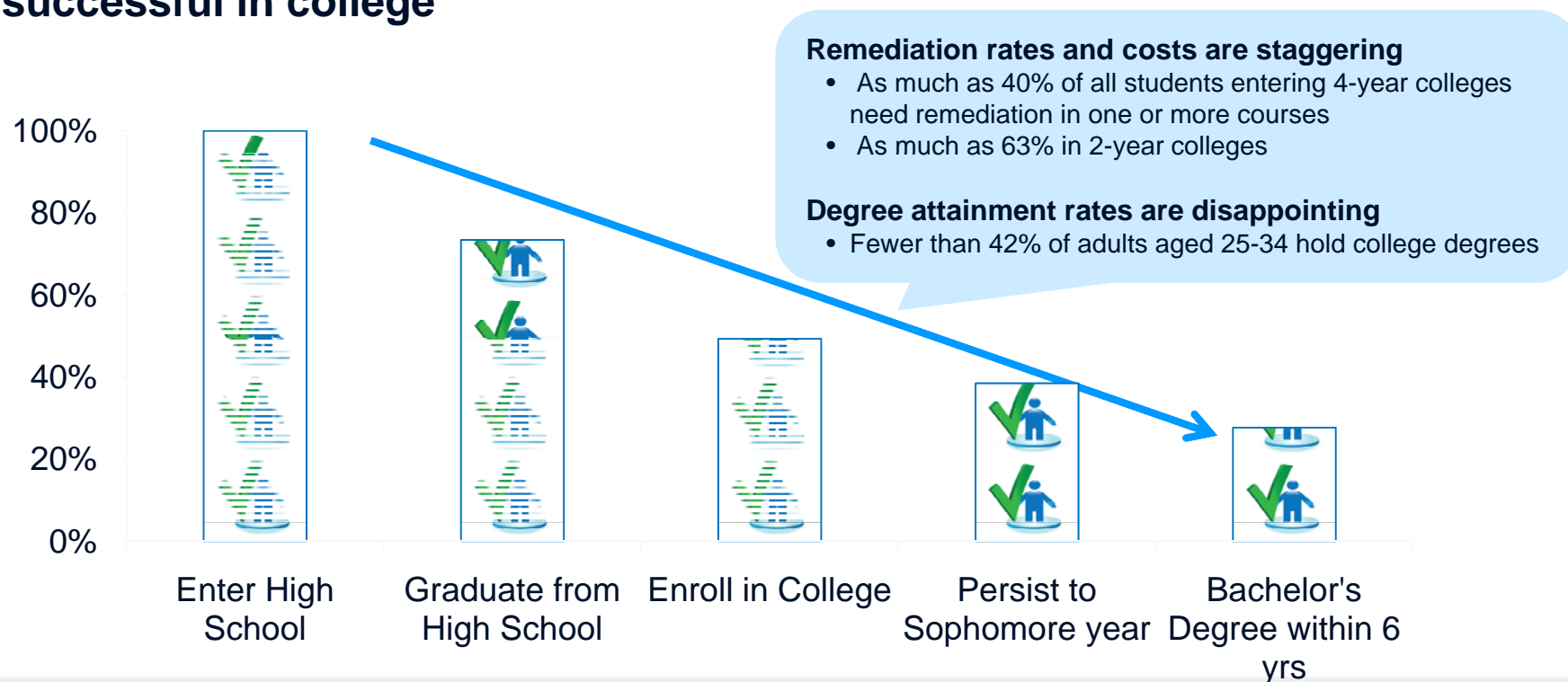
What do we wish to accomplish today?

- Discuss the current state of student preparedness
- Examine the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and how they compare to current state standards and assessments
- Learn about current reforms in New York state related to the Common Core and student preparedness

“We have one of the highest high school dropout rates of any industrialized nation. And half of the students who begin college never finish. This is a prescription for economic decline.”

– President Obama

While many factors impact college completion rates, fundamentally too few students are receiving the academic preparation necessary to be successful in college



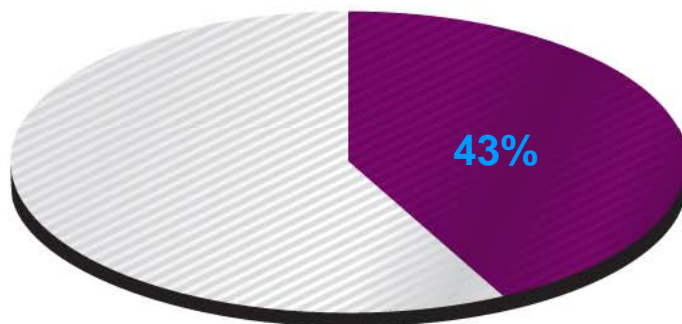
Source: The College Completion Agenda 2010 Progress Report, The College Board

Proportion of students achieving the SAT[®] College and Career Readiness Benchmark

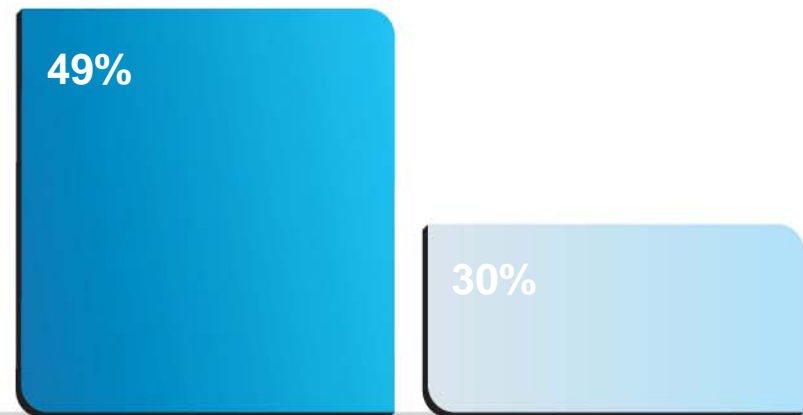
- Among students from the class of 2011 who took the SAT, 43% achieved a combined score of 1550 or greater
- Students with core curriculum participation have higher SAT Benchmark attainment rates compared to those without

2011 SAT Cohort (Total Group)

% Achieving SAT Benchmark for College and Career Readiness



% Achieving SAT Benchmark by Core Curriculum Participation



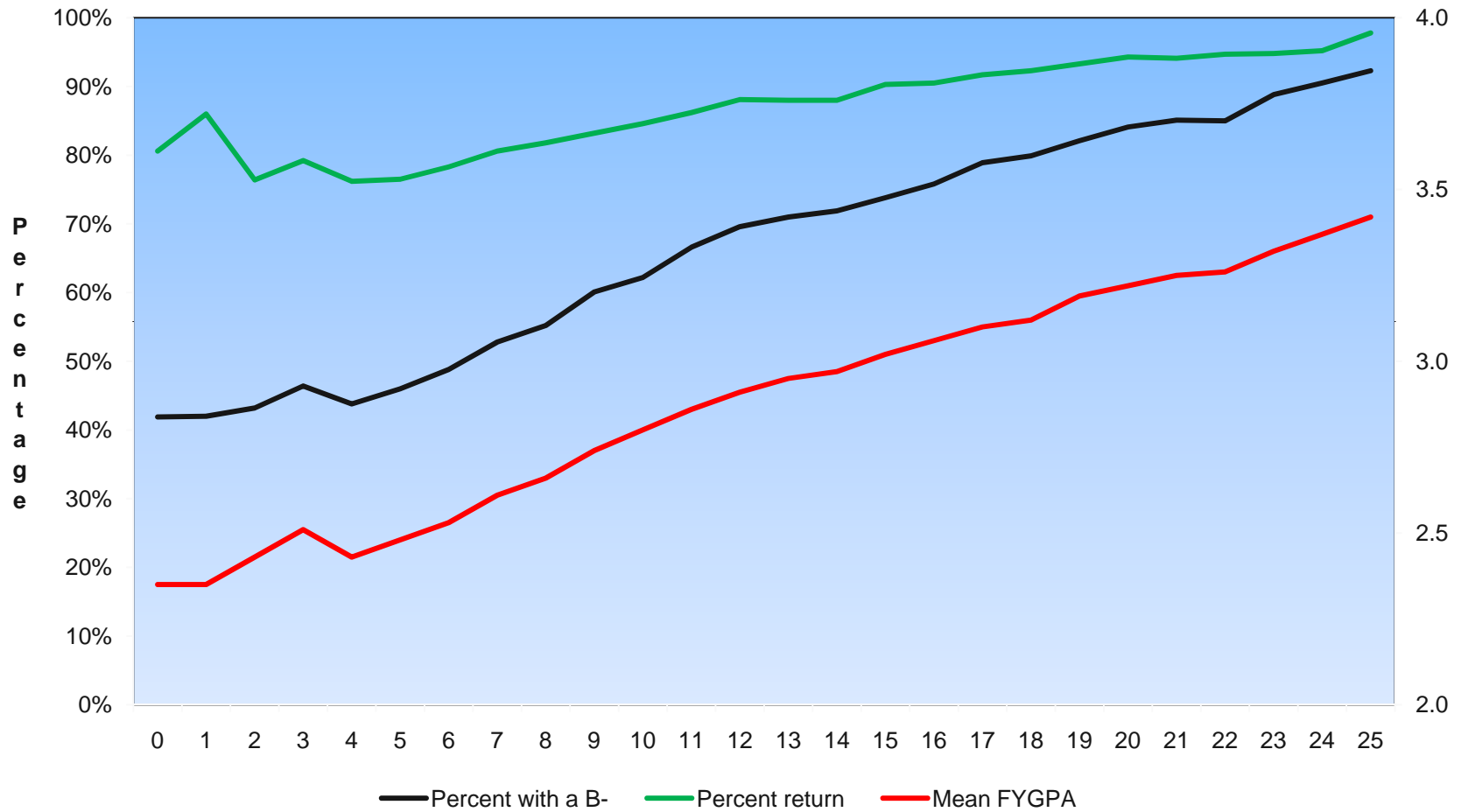
The importance of academic rigor

- Adelman et al (2003)
 - 15% of students in the top quintile in academic rigor required remediation
 - 57% of students in the bottom quintile in academic rigor required remediation
- Adelman (2006)
 - 83% of students whose highest Mathematics class was Calculus graduated within 8 years
 - 40% of students whose highest Mathematics class was Algebra II graduated within 8 years

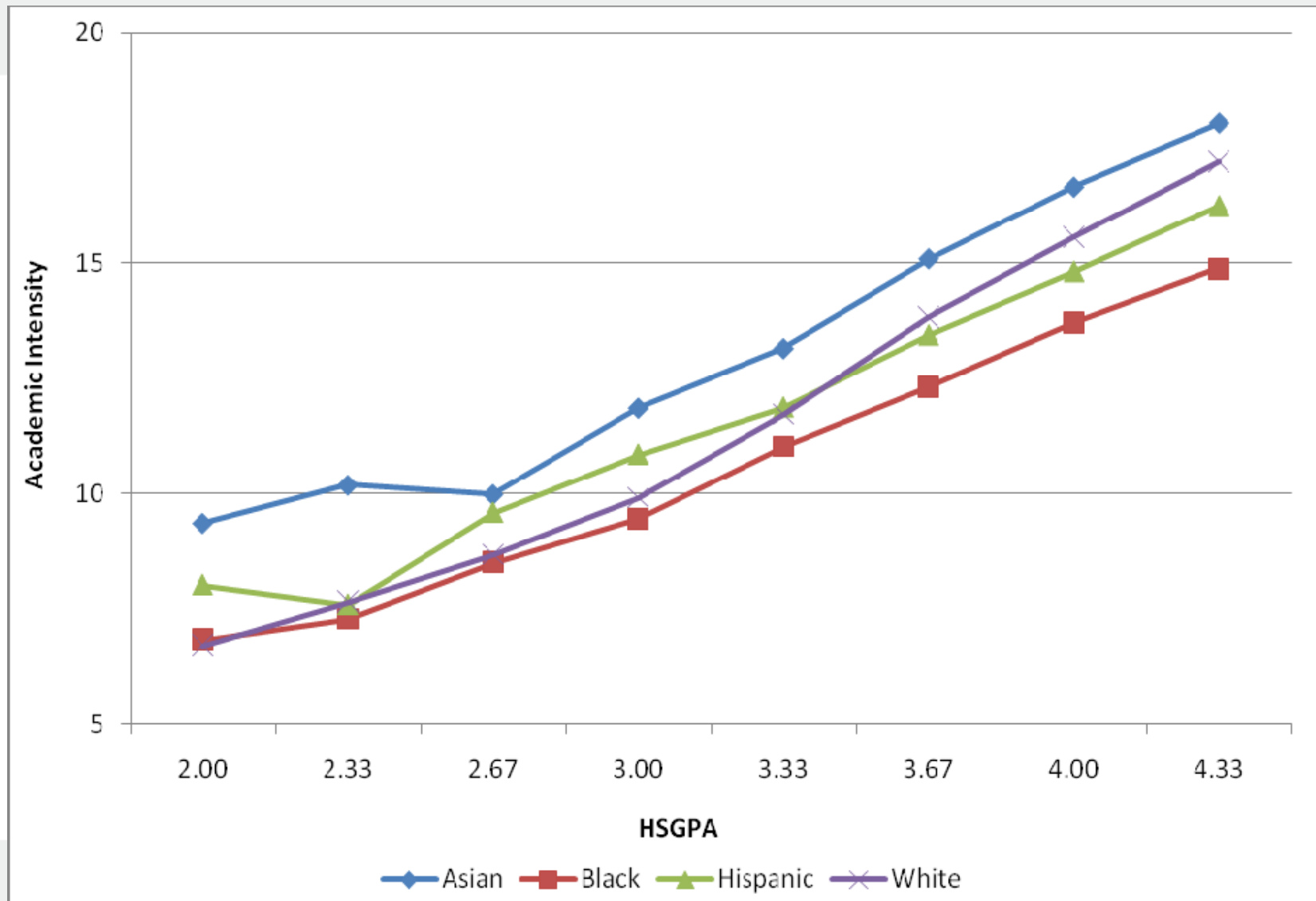
College Board index of academic rigor

- Empirically derived by evaluating students course taking in relation to their college performance
- Course taking evaluated in 5 academic areas
 - English Language Arts
 - Mathematics
 - Natural sciences
 - Social Sciences/History
 - Foreign Languages
- Course taking patterns are evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5 within each area, and summed for a scale from 0 to 25

Academic Rigor Index and College Performance



Academic Intensity & Ethnicity



Academic Intensity, Ethnicity, and FYGPA (Percent with a B- or Higher)

Academic Rigor Index	Asian	African American	Hispanic	White
0-5	56.7	31.6	37.9	49.4
6-10	59.0	38.9	46.5	60.5
11-15	69.5	53.0	56.1	75.0
16-20	80.5	64.1	64.8	83.6
21-25	87.2	67.5	73.9	88.8
All (0-25)	73.9	47.9	55.9	73.6



Common Core

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The Common Core State Standards

Rigor and college readiness

- The Common Core is a state-led effort to develop a common set of college and career readiness standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics that
 - align with college and workplace expectations
 - include rigorous content and applications of knowledge
 - are based on evidence
 - build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
 - are informed by frameworks from top performing countries

Why Common Core State Standards?

Consistency

- Previously, every state had its own set of academic standards and different expectations of student performance.

Equity

- Common standards can help create more equal access to an excellent education.

Competition

- All students must be prepared to compete with not only their American peers, but also with students from around the world.

Clarity

- Clear and coherent standards will help students (and parents and teachers) understand what is expected of them.

Collaboration

- Common Standards create a foundation for districts and states to work collaboratively.

Defining Features of the Standards

English Language Arts	Mathematics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Informational text and literature▪ Comprehending complex texts▪ Writing in response to texts▪ Conducting and reporting on research▪ Language and grammar skills▪ Speaking and listening▪ Cross-content literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Emphasis on mathematical practices▪ Attention to focus and coherence▪ Increased focus on algebra in middle school▪ Problem solving and reasoning▪ Mathematical modeling▪ Standards for STEM readiness

Aligning the Common Core to State Standards and Assessments

Alignment is one of the first steps for states towards implementing the Common Core.

Content Alignment

- To what degree does the Common Core and state standards address the same content knowledge and skills?

Rigor

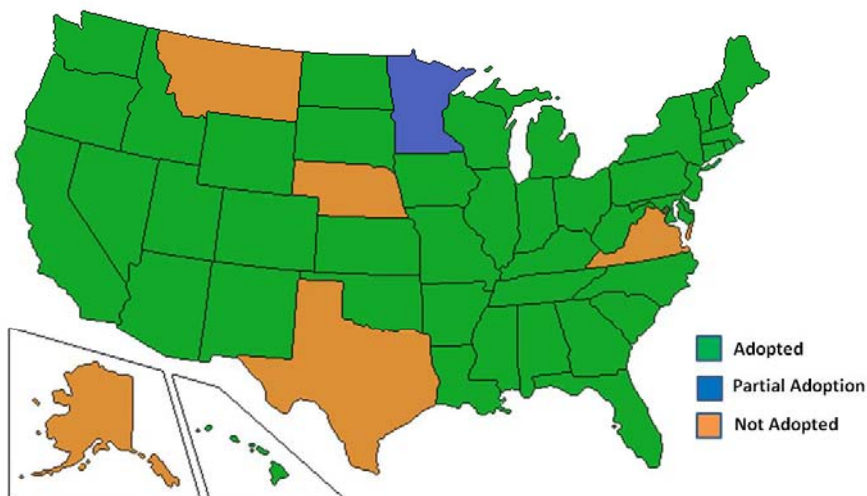
- Are the state standards and assessments pitched at the same level of cognitive demand (rigor) as the Common Core?

Progression

- Do the state standards and assessments address Common Core content at the appropriate grade level?

Trends in State Standards Alignment

College Board alignment trends indicate the following challenge areas for states and districts:



45 states have adopted the Common Core as of October 2011.

- Text complexity
- Attention to cross-content literacy
- Informational texts
- Research
- Sequencing in math
- Integration of the math practices
- Standards for STEM readiness