

Evaluation of NC's Career and College Promise

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Career and College Promise: Three Dual Enrollment Pathways

Cooperative Innovative High Schools

- Small schools that seamlessly integrate high school and college
- Targeted at students who are underrepresented in college
- Goal is to have students graduate with a high school diploma and a postsecondary credential

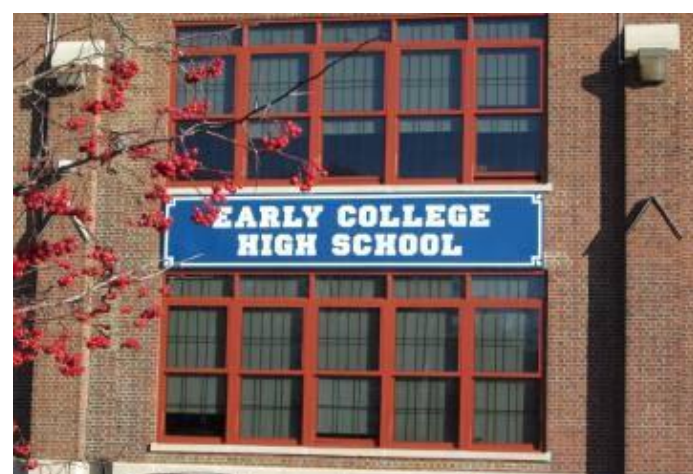
College Transfer Pathway

- General education community college courses that transfer to a four-year institution
- For eligible 11th and 12th graders in regular high schools



Career and Technical Education Pathway

- CTE community college courses that lead to a technical credential or career-focused
- For eligible 11th-12th graders in regular high schools (9th grade for some programs)



Research Questions

- What is the impact of students' participation in the three pathways on their performance in high school, enrollment and performance in postsecondary education, earning a postsecondary credential, and their employment and earnings?
- How do impacts differ based on the type of pathway in which a student participated (CIHS, College Transfer only, CTE only, both CTE and College Transfer, STEM-oriented CTE, such as engineering or computer science)?
- How do impacts differ for specific student populations and by specific school characteristics?
- Why do some districts/schools have higher participation rates than others?
- What are the costs and cost-effectiveness of the different pathways?

Methods

Impact of Three Pathways

- *Design:* Quasi-experimental design in which participating students are matched to non-participating students
 - Supplemented by possible regression discontinuity design and school-level fixed effects model
- *Sample:* Estimated 180,000 students participating in the three pathways from 2012-13 through 2019-2020.
- *Data sources:* North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; North Carolina Community College System; University of North Carolina System; NC Department of Commerce, National Student Clearinghouse

Impact of Early College (specific model within CIHS pathway)

- *Design:* Randomized controlled trial using a lottery to select students out of eligible applicants
- *Sample:* 4,074 students who applied to 19 early colleges and enrolled in 9th grade from 2005-06 through 2010-11.
- *Data sources:* North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; North Carolina Community College System; University of North Carolina System; National Student Clearinghouse; NC Department of Commerce

Implementation of Three Pathways

- *Design:* Descriptive analyses of various implementation factors
- *Data sources:* Administrative data; surveys to districts, high schools, and colleges; site visits to high schools; interviews with students and high school/college staffs

Cost of Three Pathways

- *Design:* Retrospective cost study using ingredients method supplemented by analyses of expenditures
- *Sample:* Six purposively selected sites (ingredients method); all schools (administrative data).
- *Data sources:* North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and IPEDs expenditure data; site visits and interviews