

Early College High Schools



Early colleges are small high schools affiliated with universities and community colleges that target first-generation college students, students at risk of dropping out of high school, and students who would benefit from accelerated learning opportunities. These students have the

opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma as well as an associate degree or up to 2 years of transferable college credit. Numerous research studies have found that early college students are more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in postsecondary education, and more likely to earn a postsecondary credential.¹

Peer Learning Networks

Network facilitation among early college staff members
Study visits to peer schools



Teaching and Learning

Research-based professional learning
Instructional coaching



Strategic Consulting

Annual school planning process in early college startup
Community and partner engagement



At RTI International, we tailor our support to the context of early colleges in four areas that we believe drive growth:

Education Leadership

One-on-one executive development for principals
Team-based leadership development



Spotlight: Early College Network



By the Numbers

98%

principals who believe that the network brings a sense of collective advocacy

99%

principals who have expanded their personal and professional network

100%

participants who agree that skills were improved

Challenge: The Early College Network comprises principals, counselors, college liaisons, and teachers from participating early college high schools. The group convenes regularly to share knowledge around common problems facing early college practitioners.

Customized Support: The network aims to

- Increase leader effectiveness through shared learning and peer support around problems of practice
- Use data to support network improvement
- Leverage the collective voice and expertise of the network to influence early college high school policy and practice.

Results: RTI facilitates regular network convenings, each focused on a specific topic of interest defined by network members. Recent examples include learning how to maximize partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding, marketing early college, considering new staff onboarding approaches, and evaluating early college design principles.

RTI also organizes group study visits, provides topic-based research briefs, hosts expert speakers, and conducts group webinars at the request of members.

Learn More

All children deserve a quality education that empowers them to thrive. However, each day educators are faced with new challenges driven by the accelerating pace of change. The need to perceive, understand, and act on emerging trends and practices creates added complexity and can strain capacity. At RTI, we're partnering with educators to change that.

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Reference

¹ Edmunds, J.A., Bernstein, L., Unlu, F., Glennie, E., Willse, J., Smith, A. & Arshavsky, N. (2012). Expanding the start of the college pipeline: Ninth grade findings from an experimental study of the impact of the early college high school model. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 5(2), 136–159.

www.rti.org/centers/education-services

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RTI 12455 R2 1220