

Can C Students Be On-Track for Postsecondary Success? Evidence from Two State Longitudinal Data Systems

Initial Explorations for Michigan & Maryland

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Study Background

- Looking at which credits, courses, and marks in high school are most strongly associated with students' postsecondary outcomes, to best determine the requirements for high school diplomas.
- Using data from the Student Longitudinal Data Systems from 3 states connecting K-12 to Postsecondary data (Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota).
- Looking at Graduating classes of 2014, 2015, and 2016 - allows to examine both late high school graduates - i.e., 5th or 6th year and allow 6-8 years to obtain postsecondary degrees or credentials.
- For MD only have complete course data for class of 2016

Cumulative GPA of High School Graduates

HS GPA	Michigan	Maryland
N =	306,771	49,647
A	27%	14%
B	41%	38%
C	27%	40%
D	5%	8%
F	<1%	<1%

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates by HS GPA

PS Enrollment	Michigan	Maryland
Overall	79%	79%
A	97%	96%
B	86%	87%
C	60%	72%
D	41%	44%
F	28%	58%

Postsecondary Award Rates by HS GPA

State	HS GPA	N =	Any PS Award	Associate	Bachelor
Michigan	F	324	11%	8%	5%
	D	15,982	9%	4%	3%
	C	81,813	18%	9%	8%
	B	125,450	51%	16%	38%
	A	82,174	86%	12%	78%
Maryland	F	71	34%	*	21%
	D	4,160	4%	2%	2%
	C	19,648	29%	5%	22%
	B	18,869	52%	8%	40%
	A	6,899	79%	7%	67%

Demographic Backgrounds of 'C' Students (Michigan)

	HS GPA = 'C' Enrolled in PS	HS GPA = 'C' did not Enroll in PS
N =	49,053	32,760
Female	44%	38%
Econ Disadv.	64%	73%
Speced	14%	25%
LEP	6%	4%
Black	28%	22%
Native	1%	1%
Asian	2%	1%
White	60%	67%
Hispanic	7%	7%
Multi	2%	2%
Overage	5%	12%

PS Outcomes of 'C' Students by Economic Status (Michigan)

		Enrollment			Highest Postsecondary Award		
	N =	Any PS	2-year	4-year	Any award	Associate	Bachelor
Economically Advantaged	26,277	67%	58%	26%	24%	11%	12%
Economically Disadvantaged	55,536	57%	49%	20%	15%	8%	6%

HS Credit Backgrounds of 'C' Students (Michigan)

	HS GPA = 'C' Enrolled in PS	HS GPA = 'C' did not Enroll in PS
N =	49,053	32,760
Total Credits	20.8	19.9
Eng Credits	3.9	3.8
Math Credits	3.4	3.3
Scie Credits	3.0	2.9
SocStud Credits	3.4	3.1
Acad Credits	14.9	13.9
ForLang Credits	1.1	0.9
Virtual Credits	0.5	0.7
AP Credits	0.1	0.0
IB Credits	0.1	0.0
DE Credits	0.1	0.0
Math High	6.9	6.5
Chem Credits	68%	61%
Phys Credits	30%	25%
HS GPA	2.0	2.0
>= 1 Course Failures	84%	88%

HS Course Failures of “C” Students in MD and MI

High School Graduates with C Ave.	No HS Course Failure	1 or more HS Course Failures
Michigan	14%	86%
Maryland	47%	53%

PS Outcomes of 'C' Students with and without HS Course Failures (Michigan)

		HS GPA = 'C'	HS GPA = 'C' 0 Course Failures	HS GPA = 'C' ≥1 Course Failures
	N =	81,813	11,710	70,103
Enrollment	Any PS	60%	68%	59%
	2-Year	52%	57%	51%
	4-Year	22%	29%	21%
	Public	55%	62%	54%
	Private	12%	13%	11%
Awards	Any	18%	25%	17%
	Certificate	4%	6%	4%
	Associate	9%	12%	8%
	Bachelor	8%	12%	7%
	Graduate	0%	1%	0%

PS Outcomes of 'C' Students by HSA Proficiency Level (Maryland)

			Enrollment			Highest Postsecondary Award		
		N =	Any PS	2-year	4-year	Any award	Associate	Bachelor
Algebra HSA Proficiency Level	Basic	3052	49%	38%	11%	7%	2%	4%
	Proficient	13478	74%	44%	29%	28%	6%	20%
	Advanced	3036	90%	29%	61%	55%	6%	47%
English HSA Proficiency Level	Basic	3374	50%	39%	10%	7%	2%	3%
	Proficient	11882	73%	45%	28%	27%	6%	19%
	Advanced	4047	88%	31%	57%	52%	5%	44%

Can “C” Students Be On Track to Postsecondary Success

The main factor, which appears to increase a “C” student’s odds of earning a college degree is some degree of academic wherewithal – either passing all their high school classes (i.e., no course failure) or showing a mastery of 10th grade level academic skills

Only a small minority of “C” students appear to obtain these academic outcomes

PS Outcomes of 'B' & 'C' Students who were 'Proficient' on HSA (Maryland)

			Enrollment			Highest Postsecondary Award		
		N =	Any PS	2-year	4-year	Any award	Associate	Bachelor
Proficient on Algebra HSA	HS GPA 'B'	12054	85%	40%	45%	46%	9%	33%
	HS GPA 'C'	13478	74%	44%	29%	28%	6%	20%
Proficient on English HSA	HS GPA 'B'	10367	84%	41%	43%	43%	9%	31%
	HS GPA 'C'	11882	73%	45%	28%	27%	6%	19%

Questions

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