Center for an Urban Future

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The Bloomberg administration has made monumental school reforms, but it backed away from earlier efforts to make collaborative college readiness programs a major priority.

For too many graduates, a high school diploma does not represent adequate preparation for college or work. A growing number of states are responding to this problem by erecting dual enrollment programs that provide connections and pathways between high schools and colleges.

READY OR NOT

Insufficient Collaboration Between Department of Education and CUNY Could Hinder Effectiveness and Future Growth of Programs Designed to Improve Students' College Readiness Levels

ONE OF THE PERSISTENT PROBLEMS CONFRONTING EDUCATION officials in New York City today is that too many students who graduate from the city's public high schools are unprepared to succeed in college. While this isn't a new problem, it has taken on more importance in today's knowledge economy, as employers of all types increasingly demand that workers have some level of post-secondary education.

A growing number of educators and policymakers around the country say that the solution lies in creating dual enrollment programs and other collaborative initiatives between secondary and post-secondary schools that give kids a taste of college work while they are still in high school. Dozens of states and cities have created these programs in recent years as a way to ease students' transition from secondary to post-secondary schools.

New York has quietly developed some of the nation's most promising dual enrollment programs that are focused on preparing young people for college, connecting tens of thousands of low-income and "average" students from public schools around the five boroughs with campuses of the City University of New York (CUNY). However, the programs, which are all run by CUNY, have thus far received little institutional

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Report - April 2006

Ready or Not

This new report focuses on the alarming number of young people who graduate from New York City public high schools unprepared to succeed in college, and provides a detailed examination of three college readiness programs run by CUNY and the city's public school system. The report concludes that a lack of institutional support from the city's top education officials may make it difficult to expand or improve upon these programs in the years ahead.

by Tara Colton

Click here to read the full report (PDF).

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