

What is EXCELerator™?

Districts often partner with the College Board to implement specific college readiness programs and services, and EXCELerator™ extends this partnership by offering services focused on improving college readiness at the district level. Teams use a research-driven approach and work closely with school districts to improve their capacity to ensure college readiness by strengthening infrastructure, ensuring coherent curricula and formative assessments, and developing the right supports for students and families. The vision of the EXCELerator district services program is to see all students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills necessary to enter college and to be successful in the postsecondary environment. EXCELerator's goal is to create systems that make this vision a reality, with a special focus on serving those students who have been and continue to be underserved.

How can EXCELerator help?

EXCELerator offers a range of programs and services that enable district leaders to analyze their current college readiness strengths and gaps and to implement programs to improve college readiness infrastructure. EXCELerator services currently include:

- Program analyses
- Implementation services
- Professional development
- Multiyear partnership

Project teams are staffed by professionals with decades of school and district experience, and all teams take a hands-on, integrated approach working with school and district personnel.

Program analyses

EXCELerator offers both comprehensive and targeted analytic programs to make districts aware of their current capacity to ensure college readiness for all students. Program analyses are research-based and use a variety of methods to gather data — data and document reviews, district interviews and school visits.

The District Diagnostic provides the most complete analysis of a district's capacity to ensure college readiness. The District Diagnostic assesses the district across five essential components. The results are presented in a final District Diagnostic Report that includes identification of critical issues facing the district's college readiness infrastructure, detailed evidence supporting findings and specific recommendations for improvement.

Five Essential Components

- 1 District Infrastructure focuses on goals, policies, practices and processes that establish college readiness as a priority.**
- 2 Curriculum Coherence**
Curriculum Coherence focuses on district guidelines that ensure that the scope and sequence of core content areas are aligned to college readiness expectations.
- 3 Assessments That Inform**
Assessments That Inform focuses on the use of assessment data to improve instruction and increase college readiness at the district, school and classroom levels.
- 4 Student Academic Support**
Student Academic Support focuses on strategies and programs that build students' capacity to engage in learning experiences essential for college readiness.
- 5 Culture and Community**
Culture and Community focuses on strategies and programs that empower students and families to plan and prepare for college success.

For districts preferring to focus on specific issues, EXCELerator has a suite of focus areas designed to determine the level of contribution certain programs bring to a district's college readiness infrastructure. Current focus areas include the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®), middle school and elementary school.

Implementation services

EXCEerator can provide implementation support services, depending on the district's college readiness goals. Support teams are designed to provide short- to medium-term capacity in order to accelerate implementation of college readiness projects and programs, with the goal of creating sustainable, long-term programs within the district. EXCEerator services can provide customized implementation support to meet a district's college readiness goals. Examples of services delivered in the past include:

- College readiness planning workshops for district leadership
- AP project management
- Data coaching and targeted student intervention

Professional development

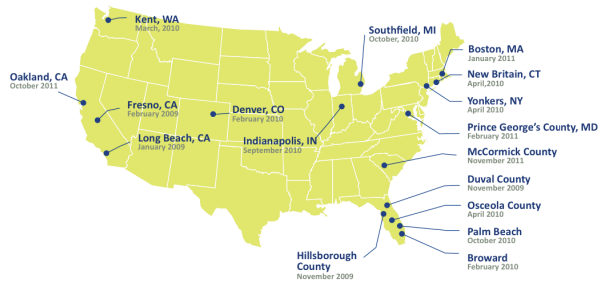
EXCEerator professional development is designed to provide teachers and leaders with high-leverage strategies to improve college readiness for all students. Current offerings include professional development to increase access and support AP instruction and expansion, to construct curriculum maps that include essential college readiness knowledge and skills, and to give counselors tools and frameworks to support college and career readiness for all students.

EXCEerator staff can also work with the district to customize professional development programs to meet the needs of the school or district. All professional development opportunities are packaged with a leadership component and follow-up to monitor the effectiveness of implementation.

Building and sustaining districtwide college and career readiness

EXCEerator™: District Reach, 2009-present

# Districts	# Secondary schools	# Secondary Students	% Black and Hispanic Students	# Teachers ¹
19	652	770k	65%	92,000



¹ The number of teachers listed is the total number of teachers in the district; the breakdown by number of secondary school teachers was not available.



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EXCEerator

For further information, visit exceleerator.collegeboard.org or email EXCEerator@collegeboard.org.

Multiyear partnership

The College Board works in partnership with districts all over the country, but EXCEerator participates in a limited number of multiyear partnerships with districts in order to improve our understanding of “what works” in college readiness improvement and district reform. Partnerships begin with a District Diagnostic in order to understand and assess the district's current college readiness strengths and gaps. After the District Diagnostic, EXCEerator provides on-the-ground project management support in order to:

- Aid the district in the development of an integrated K–12 college readiness strategy
- Implement identified college readiness improvement initiatives
- Identify funding sources where necessary
- Provide coaching to support application of new skills and practices
- Understand the efficacy of college readiness initiatives