

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

Today, nearly half of all incoming students aren't ready for college-level coursework in math or English. Most of these students will not graduate from college. That's a big problem, but **ACT® CollegeReady™** is helping schools like Campus High School overcome it.

Located near Wichita, Kansas, Campus High School has roughly 1,600 students, many of whom are first-generation high school graduates or the first in their family to go to college. "We've done a lot of things over the years to improve our school drastically, and a big part of what we've done is having a college-going focus," said Mardy Moree, College and Career Counselor at Campus High School. "Some of our kids would feel like they were ready for a state university. But when they got there, they would either not be admitted or be put in remedial classes. We were trying to figure out what we needed to do."

During the process of seeking out the best possible solutions for their college-bound students,

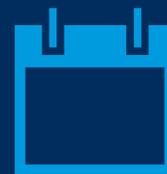
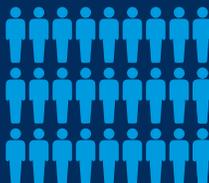
administrators from Campus High School attended an ACT College and Career Readiness Workshop (CCRW) in 2018. There, they learned about a pilot program opportunity for ACT CollegeReady—a student success tool that identifies knowledge and skill gaps in math and English and creates a personalized learning path based on individual academic needs. "Really quickly, we decided we wanted to be part of it," said Walter Zemanick, a Senior Counselor at Campus High School. "We knew we had kids who weren't ready. It was perfect timing for us."

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Mardy Moree
COLLEGE AND CAREER COUNSELOR
CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL



Campus High School Pilot Summary



LOCATION:

**Wichita,
Kansas**

MODERATORS:

2

STUDENTS:

27

AVERAGE SCORE GAIN:

9.5

DURATION OF PILOT:

**1
Semester**

Campus High School's first step was identifying the right students for the pilot program. They did this by looking at the ACT scores of seniors who planned to attend a four-year college but weren't on track to be ready. "We looked for a mismatch between what their goals were and where their scores were," said Zemanick. In total, 27 students were chosen for the first semester, and two teachers served as classroom moderators.

Their strategy was to provide a self-study class that allowed students to work at their own pace. "That's one of the wonderful things about ACT CollegeReady," said Zemanick. "In a typical classroom setting, students are asked to learn at the same pace, which creates a problem for certain individuals. By participating in CollegeReady, students could work at their own pace until they really grasped a concept. When it clicked, you could see the excitement and pride right on their faces."

This is not a test prep course or a program. This is an intervention. And when you look at it that way, it determines the focus on how you use the program.

Some students would work on both English and math. Others would focus on the area of greatest need. The results spoke for themselves. Every participating student in the pilot program improved from their initial diagnostic score—many of them in the double-digits. One student in particular earned a score gain of 29, a dramatic improvement and evidence of their hard work and dedication.

When the semester ended, and as summer arrived, Campus High School conducted exit interviews with participating students—and the feedback was exceptionally positive. According to one senior, "The ability to review and also see detailed examples, alongside the ability to immediately test rather than learn if you already knew a section, allowed for a quick and efficient method of learning." Another student's feedback was simple and right to the point: "I feel more confident than I did."

That's an idea right at the heart of ACT's mission—giving students the confidence they need to succeed. The CollegeReady program isn't about helping students merely survive college. It's about reducing barriers for postsecondary success and helping them thrive.

When summer ends and school is back in session, Campus High School plans to continue the program, this time with the next class of seniors. "Our goal is to have 40 kids," said Zemanick. "We're also excited to hear about the great things last year's seniors will do in college since they were so well prepared."