



## College Board EXCEerator Schools Fact Sheet

### WHAT:

The College Board is expanding its partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in a way that builds on the successes of the existing College Board Schools in New York but that ensures wider scalability—through the implementation of EXCEerator Schools across the nation over the next five years. Working within these schools, the College Board will implement a set of research-based interventions aimed at dramatically increasing enrollment and success in advanced courses—especially Advanced Placement (AP) courses in mathematics, science, English, world languages, and social studies.

The components of the EXCEerator School model include the following:

Rigor & High Expectations	Access & Opportunity	Inspiration for Hearts & Minds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup></li> <li>• SpringBoard<sup>™</sup> Math &amp; ELA</li> <li>• College Board Standards for College Success<sup>™</sup></li> <li>• SAT Reasoning Test<sup>™</sup></li> <li>• Pre-AP Initiatives</li> <li>• Leadership Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup></li> <li>• AP Potential<sup>™</sup></li> <li>• SAT Readiness Program<sup>™</sup></li> <li>• Professional Development for Guidance Counselors</li> <li>• Training in Curriculum Writing</li> <li>• Training in Data Analysis</li> <li>• Master Schedule Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CollegeEd<sup>®</sup></li> <li>• MyRoad<sup>™</sup></li> <li>• AVID<sup>®</sup></li> <li>• District Coach</li> </ul>

Five key elements will characterize EXCEerator Schools:

1. Implementation of **rigorous academic programs** for all students, ranging from efforts aimed at increasing the literacy levels of underachieving students to accelerated and enriched learning programs in mathematics, science, English, and social studies.
2. **Extensive and ongoing professional development** for superintendents, principals, teachers, and counselors. This highly trained cadre of administrators and teachers will guide the school in change while providing intense instructional leadership.
3. **Extensive use of data** to inform and drive teaching, learning, and assessment within each school, with a particular focus on using data to examine the extent to which students are mastering mathematics, science, reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, and the extent to which schools modify their instructional programs and strategies to meet the needs of every student in all core subjects.
4. **College planning and preparation** including counseling and advisory programs that support students' efforts to better prepare for enrollment and success in college, including taking steps as early as middle school.
5. **Developmental supports** that create a personalized learning environment and community for every student.

Districts and schools implementing the EXCEerator model will commit to a multi-year process of continuous improvement, beginning with a six-month planning period followed by three years of program implementation. The result of this process is institutionalization of a college-going culture.

**WHY:**

The urgent need for improvement in our nation’s secondary schools requires an aggressive response, and the College Board is enthusiastic about taking on this initiative. Through a combination of foundation and public funding, the College Board is working to transform selected high schools—especially in urban communities—into EXCEerator Schools.

The result of this public-private partnership will be the creation of new opportunities for college enrollment and success for millions of traditionally underrepresented students, as well as the preparation of tens of thousands of students who enter college prepared to succeed.

The outcomes of this initiative within the participating EXCEerator Schools and districts include:

- Increased academic achievement, including increased success in AP courses, reduced achievement gaps across sub-groups, and reduced dropout rates;
- Increased high school graduation rates, increased college-readiness rates, and decreased college remediation rates;
- Creation of a school culture focused on college readiness for all students, and greater student engagement with challenging, meaningful content; and
- The creation of a national model for deep and lasting systemic change that can be widely and quickly disseminated through the College Board’s network of members and relationships with states and school districts.

**WHICH SCHOOLS WILL USE THE EXCEerator MODEL?**

Eleven schools in three school districts have been selected to participate in the first cohort of EXCEerator Schools. The review process is underway to select 19 additional schools to be part of the second cohort, which will begin planning in January 2007.

**Cohort 1 Schools:**

Chicago, IL

- Roosevelt High School
- The Al Raby School for Community and Environment
- John F. Kennedy High School
- Morgan Park High School

Duval County, FL

- Samuel Wolfson High School
- Terry Parker High School
- Sandalwood High School
- Robert E. Lee High School

Washington, DC

- Howard D. Woodson Senior High School
- Woodrow Wilson High School
- Cardozo Senior High School

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