Accelerating Students

from High School *to* College and Careers

A Playbook for State Policymakers

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to College and Careers

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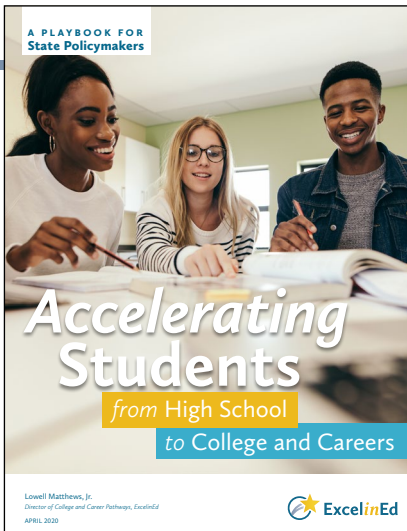
College acceleration opportunities can set students up for success. But before this can happen, states need to thoughtfully advance college acceleration opportunities that prioritize quality, value, equity and access for all students. *Accelerating Students from High School to College and Careers* presents the benefits of these opportunities, examines the challenges facing states and identifies the nine non-negotiables they need to embrace to guarantee high-quality college acceleration opportunities for their students.

Read the full playbook at ExcelinEd.org/CollegeAcceleration.

What Are College Acceleration Opportunities?

College acceleration opportunities allow students to earn college credit while in high school. The most common college acceleration models include the following:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- Dual Credit (Dual or Concurrent Enrollment)
- Early College High Schools
- International Baccalaureate (IB)

Schools best serve students when they provide a wide array of college acceleration opportunities to match individual student interest and college and career pathways.

College Acceleration Benefits and Challenges

Students who take college acceleration opportunities in high school are more likely to graduate high school, go on to college and complete college degrees. However, states face significant challenges in providing these opportunities.

CHALLENGES TO COLLEGE ACCELERATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **Quality *and* Value**
- **Equity *and* Access**
- **Capacity**
- **Sustainable Funding**

9 Non-Negotiables for High-Quality College Acceleration Opportunities

States can address the challenges to college acceleration opportunities by delivering on student value, expanding access and addressing the needs of underrepresented students. ExcelinEd's list of non-negotiables can help.

⚇ Quality *and* Value

1. **Data Collection and Analysis:** States collect, analyze and publicly report student outcome data on college acceleration opportunities and use the data to strengthen access, quality and student success.

2. **Input Reviews:** Postsecondary institutions, K-12 and providers regularly review the standards, instructional materials, educator qualifications, exams, student outcome data and vertical linkages of offerings to ensure quality.

3. **Consistent Guidelines:** States adopt consistent credit acceptance and transfer guidelines across K-12 and postsecondary institutions to ensure quality opportunities that offer students valuable credit.

4. **Defined and Articulated Pathways:** States ensure opportunities are part of a clearly defined and articulated pathway to a postsecondary credential.

✛ Equity *and* Access

5. **Plurality of Student Options:** School districts offer a plurality of opportunities in all high schools to ensure students can select opportunities that align with their chosen career pathways.

6. **Student Cost:** States ensure that opportunities are available for little or no cost to the student.

7. **Multiple Measures for Student Eligibility:** Postsecondary institutions and schools use multiple measures of student eligibility to allow students to enroll in opportunities, especially low-income and traditionally underrepresented students.

⚇ Educators *and* Advisors

8. **Educator Training:** States and school districts ensure that educators in all schools receive appropriate training to teach college acceleration opportunities.

9. **Student Advisement:** Schools notify students in all schools of available opportunities and use state indicators to identify low-income and traditionally underrepresented students with the potential to succeed in college acceleration opportunities.

   Schools notify students and their parents of the credit transferability for each college acceleration option before students enroll.

View the full playbook to learn more. ➡

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