

College Acceleration in Action

Five School Perspectives



College acceleration opportunities improve students' chances of graduating high school, enrolling in college and earning postsecondary credentials. These opportunities are yielding encouraging benefits for students, yet there remain troubling gaps in quality, value, equity and accessibility.

Our first **College Acceleration Playbook** identifies a series of non-negotiables that states, colleges, universities and schools can use to strengthen their college acceleration programs to benefit all students—especially those who have been traditionally underserved, including low-income students, rural students and students of color. Our second playbook, **College Acceleration in Action: Five School Perspectives** examines how five schools are putting these non-negotiables into practice.

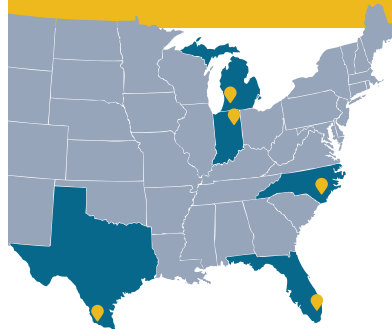
What Are College Acceleration Opportunities?

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.

Lessons from School Leaders



College Acceleration in Action features school leaders operating five different college acceleration programs in five different states. These interviews share the following insights:

- How their schools are building and sustaining high-quality college acceleration opportunities through the lens of the non-negotiables.
- What additional strategies these school leaders are using to benefit students.
- How COVID-19 affected their college acceleration opportunities with school closures in March 2020.

Read the full playbook at
ExcelinEd.org/CollegeAcceleration. ➔

The Takeaways

At a Glance

The interviews featured in this playbook revealed two distinct trends with respect to how school leaders develop strong, valuable college acceleration opportunities to set their students up for success.

Trend #1 – Successful School Leaders Focus on What They Can Control

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

School leaders can successfully grow college acceleration programs by focusing on several elements under their control, often at little or no cost to the school or school district.

1. Focus on student advisement.
2. Expand the measures by which students qualify for and are identified as capable of succeeding in college acceleration opportunities.
3. Integrate college acceleration and career pathways.
4. Train educators to teach college acceleration opportunities.

Trend #2 – State Policy Can Expand College Acceleration

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATE EDUCATION LEADERS

While school leaders can focus on several elements to increase the number of students taking and succeeding in college acceleration opportunities, the state plays an important role in expediting student success and recouping its investment through a more educated and skilled workforce.

1. Create state policy on student outcome data collection and analysis.
2. Create state policy on providing college acceleration opportunities at no cost to students.
3. Create state policy on school incentives.
4. Create state policy with consistent guidelines on credit acceptance and transfer.

View the playbook for more insights from these passionate school leaders. ➔

