Mind the Gaps: How College Readiness Narrows Achievement Gaps in College Success

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Abstract
In the ACT Policy Report Mind the Gaps, we describe the current state of college readiness of high school students and examine the contributions of pre-college indicators to improving college success. The report examines several academic factors—including level of academic achievement, coursework preparation, and educational and career planning in high school—that contribute to students’ success during their first year in college and their likelihood of returning to college for a second year.

This report also focuses on the steps that can be taken to improve the college and career readiness of high school students and to examine the contributions of pre-college indicators to improve college success. The data in this report shows the types of policies that work to improve college and career readiness and success.