

SENIOR YEAR TRANSITIONS CURRICULA

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Today's presentation

INTRODUCTION

- What is transitions curricula?
- Where is it offered?
- Why is this approach emerging?

MODEL 1: TEXAS DEVELOPMENTAL MATH COURSES

MODEL 2: VIRGINIA CAPSTONE COURSES

MODEL 3: MEMPHIS ENHANCED COMPOSITION I

DISCUSSION: What's the best way to go?

INTRODUCTION

What is transitions curricula?

Courses, learning modules or online tutorials offered no later than 12th grade to students who are at-risk of being placed into remedial education or otherwise underprepared for postsecondary education

(SREB, 2011; CCRC)



2010 – NACEP conference notes

- CUNY's At Home in College program, kind of a developmental bridge during high school
- Geneseo, IL school district offering developmental math and English as course options for seniors.
- U of Minn with 3 transitional courses that award college credit but intentionally incorporate college readiness skills: Writing Studio, Physics by Inquiry and Mathematical Modeling. Each includes “interactive pedagogy.”

Transitions curricula.....



Research on Transitions Curricula

Today's presentation draws on:

- A college readiness partnership in Houston, TX (developmental math)
- Virginia capstone courses study (math and English)
- New research on transitions curricula: Reshaping the College Transition
- Also: experience of the Memphis City Schools.

Who is doing transitions curricula?

STILL CHECKING BUT.....

SREB STATES: Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Arkansas
North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia

OTHER: California, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Maine,
Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Michigan, Rhode
Island

Missing????

Why is transitions curricula emerging?

- Common Core State Standards and the 11th grade college and career readiness assessment
- Concern about high levels of remediation needed in college
- Concern about under-utilization of the HS senior year
- Concern about the cost effectiveness of “boutique” programs
- In the NACEP world: concern about students who don't qualify for dual/concurrent enrollment

Research on College Readiness Partnerships

- Exploratory project to learn how K-12 and colleges are working together to increase student readiness.
- College Prep Algebra was one example



College Prep Algebra

- Partners:
 - Lone Star College- North Harris campus
 - Aldine Independent School District: Nimitz, Spring, and MacArthur High Schools
- Objective: to help more students place directly into college-level mathematics courses on entry into college.
- Champions: math curriculum specialist at the AISD and former faculty member at college

College Prep Algebra

- Combines deved mathematics curriculum and some college algebra curriculum from Lone Star College
- Taught by high school teachers at the high school
- Uses college texts and materials
- Seniors placed in class by default unless they opt to take a higher-level math course
- Includes presentations on applying to college, the FAFSA, preparing for careers, and gaining college-readiness skills.
- Students take the ACCUPLACER at mid-semester and the COMPASS at the end of the year for college placement.

Research on Virginia Capstone Pilots

- Interviews with all piloting schools/districts
- Site visits to selected pilot schools
- Interviews with VDOE and university partners



Virginia Capstone Courses

- VDOE initiated
- Part of a larger CCR initiative with SREB
- Started by establishing Performance Expectations for college in partnership with SCHEV and the VCCC
- Capstone course design undertaken in cooperation with 4 university education-type departments

Capstone Courses

- Math and English senior year courses
- For college-intending but not college-ready students
- Multiple goals: meet Performance Expectations, reduce remediation, re-engagement of students, deeper learning
- Lots of “capstone units” developed by 4 universities in PD sessions with teachers and placed online
- Courses piloted in 2011-12.
- Schools decide if they want to do this.

Selected findings

MATH CAPSTONE

- Fourth year math for mid-range students
- Focus on application; student centered instruction
- Some courses; some embedded units
- No assessment of college readiness

ENGLISH CAPSTONE

- A fifth English class
- Focus on reading interesting texts; emphasis on student choice
- Little focus on writing
- Some courses; some embedded units
- No assessment of college readiness

MCS Enhanced Comp I

- Collaboration with university partners (U of Memphis)
 - Department of English and Gear-up
 - Pilot group of students
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- Curriculum Design: Enhanced English 1010 met 5 Days Week(v. typical 3 days a week)
 - Design: Development Writing and English Comp
 - Department of English Extensive Professional Development for Secondary Credentialed Adjunct Faculty

DISCUSSION

- TALK WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR ABOUT THE PROS AND CONS OF EACH OF THE MODELS

Reflections and Questions

- How do you manage multiple goals? There are different notions of what it means to be college-ready.
 - Placing out of developmental education in college
 - Being a self-motivated, engaged learner
 - Being a critical thinker
 - Applying knowledge effectively.
- There are different types of postsecondary partners.
 - University education departments
 - Community college faculty in math and English
- Local context matters, especially in a local-control state.

Stay tuned for more on this topic:

Reports are/will be posted on the
Community College Research Center
website

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