ExcelinEd

Guaranteed Access to Advanced Math

Math placement policies backed by data expand opportunities for all students

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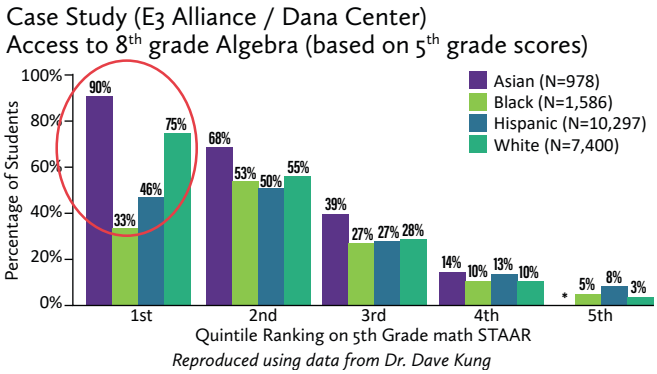
Students who are ready for advanced math opportunities in middle school should have access to those classes. Too often, those placements are based on what teachers and staff see in the classroom instead of an objective, standardized measurement of mathematical ability.

When schools use a placement system backed by test scores, highly capable students who might otherwise be overlooked gain the access they need to higher level classes. Excel*in*Ed's **Guaranteed Access to Advanced Math Model Policy** provides the framework to make that happen.

Data from Texas illustrates that automatic, readiness-based placement policies dramatically expand access to math, especially for historically-underserved students.

Guaranteed Access to Advanced Math Texas Case Study

Before Texas' Implementation of its Guaranteed Access to Advanced Math Policy (2016)



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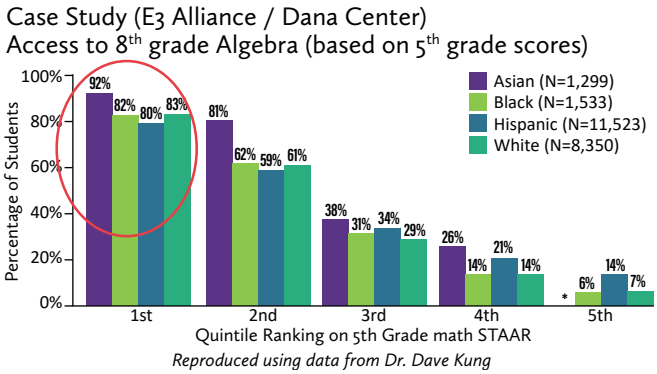
After Texas' Implementation of its Guaranteed Access to Advanced Math Policy (2017)



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Guaranteed Access to Math ensures that every student who is mathematically ready gets the opportunity to succeed in advanced math.

What does the data say about this policy?

- Automatic enrollment policies significantly increased the percentage of students who gained access to advanced math courses.
- Students from all subgroups saw increases in access with those from previously underrepresented subgroups seeing the largest gains when placement was based on standardized test scores.

What does this mean?

- More students are correctly identified as ready for advanced math, as subjective readiness identifiers, such as teacher recommendations, are removed from the equation.
- Gaps between underrepresented groups shrink when subjective barriers are removed.
- Expanded access does not reduce standards or allow students to skip math classes.

How it works

- Placement is automatic based on objective, summative assessment data
- "Opt-out" preserves parental choice
- Multiple points of entry into advanced math

This policy expands opportunity, strengthens existing systems and ultimately builds a stronger future workforce. **Learn more at mathmatters.org.**