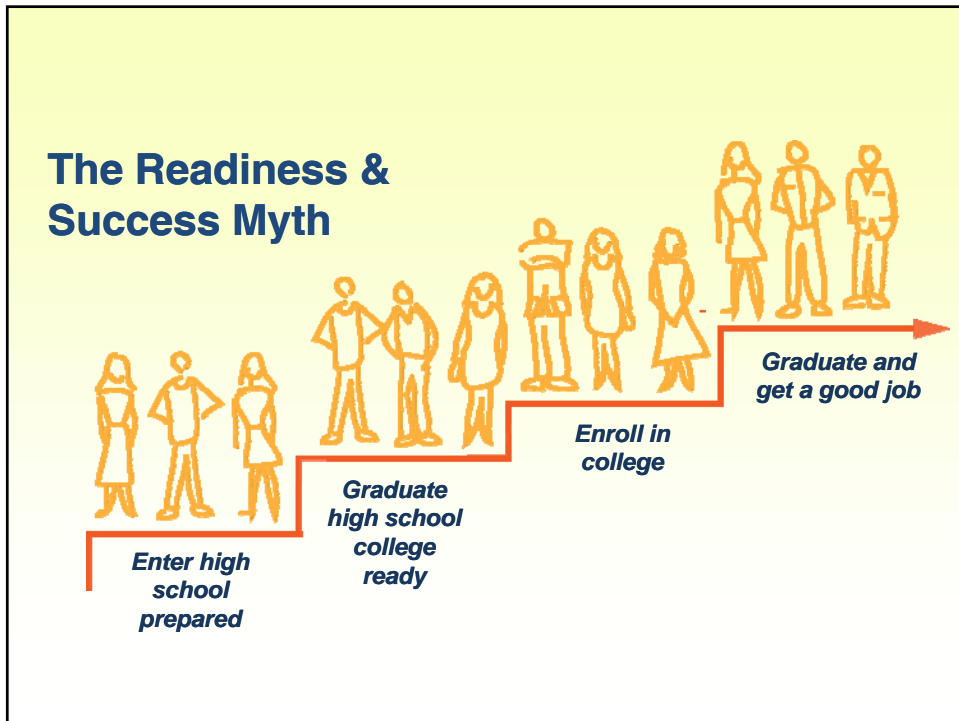


**Getting To and Through College  
Strategies for Improving College Attendance  
and Completion Rates in Texas**

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Texas Family Impact Seminar  
January 31, 2011


Cassius O. Johnson  
Director of Public Policy  
College Summit





**In Reality  
We Are Losing  
Students at  
Each Step**

**For every 100 low-income  
students who enter  
high school**

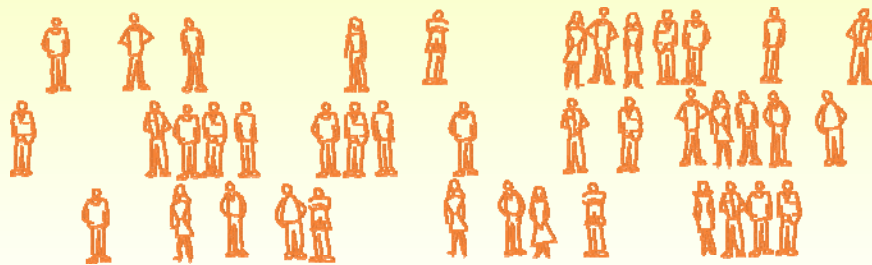


Goldberger Susan. Doing the Math: What It Means to Double the Number of Low-Income College Graduates, Minding the Gap. Harvard Press & Jobs for the Future: Cambridge, MA, 2007

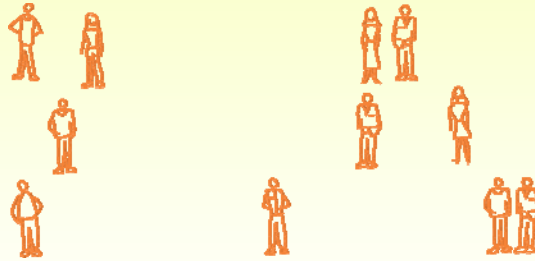
### 65 graduate from high school



### 41 enroll in college



## 11 graduate college



**One big reason for low  
college-attainment is  
too many students are  
not prepared**



**For every 100 low-income  
high school graduates**



Goldberger Susan. Doing the Math: What It Means to Double the Number of Low-Income College Graduates, *Minding the Gap*. Harvard Press & Jobs for the Future: Cambridge, MA, 2007

**Only 34 are at least minimally  
academically prepared for college**

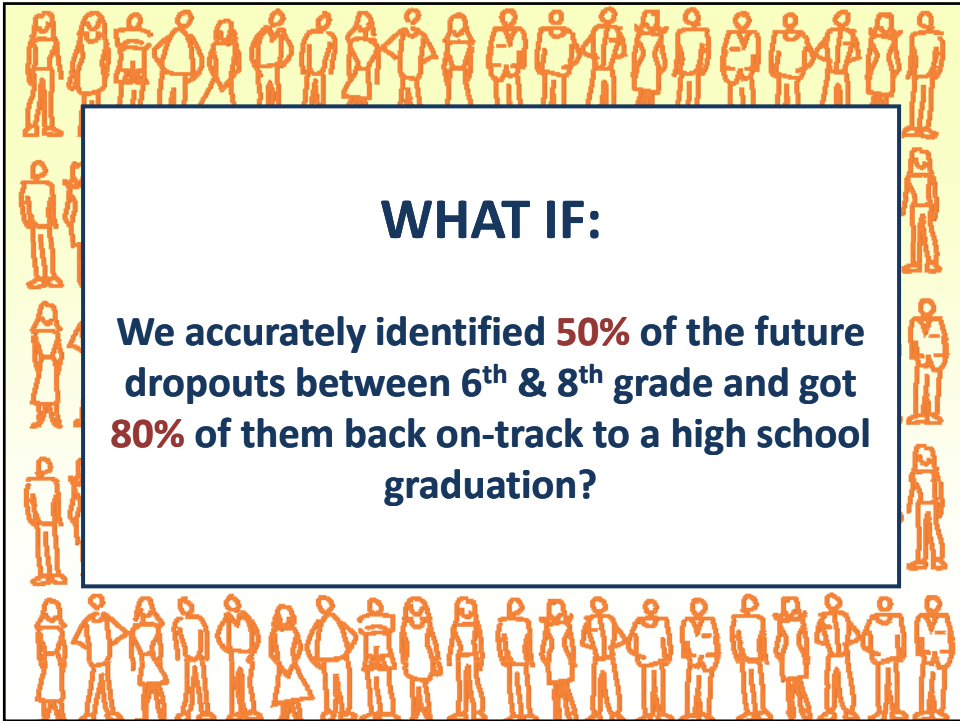


**Only 11 students are  
very academically prepared for college**



**Too many students lack  
the non-academic  
supports to be ready  
for college.**






**WHAT IF:**

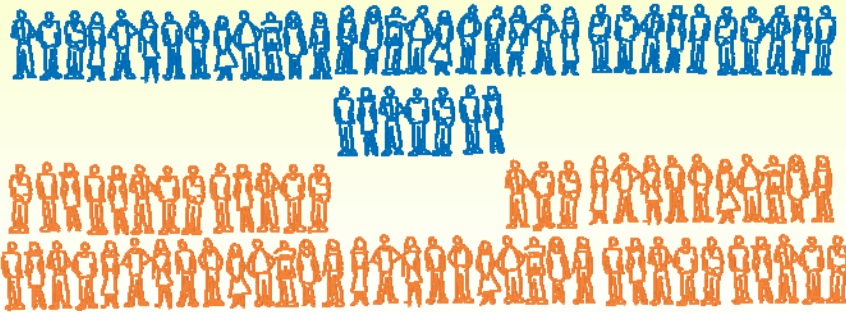
We accurately identified **50%** of the future dropouts between 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade and got **80%** of them back on-track to a high school graduation?

**Then**

**For Every 100 Dropouts**



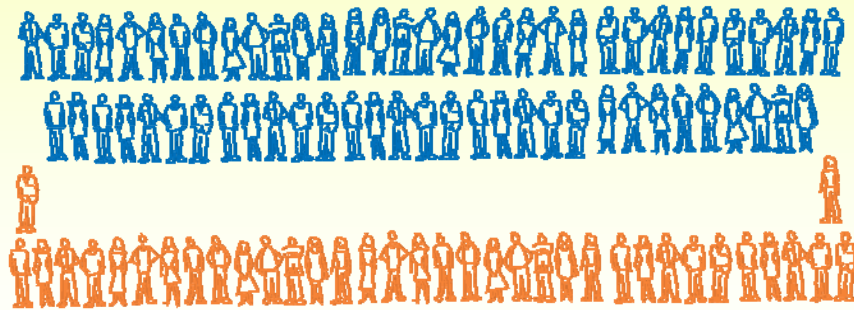
## We Would Gain **40** Additional Graduates



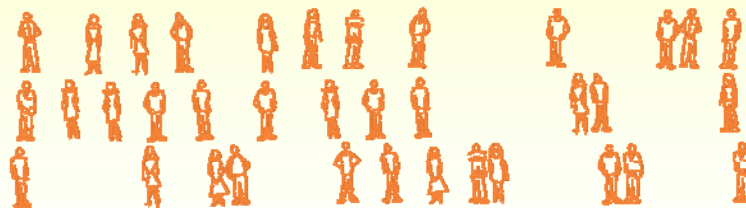
**WHAT IF:**  
We identified an additional **30%** of the future dropouts in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and got **80%** of them back on-track to graduate high school

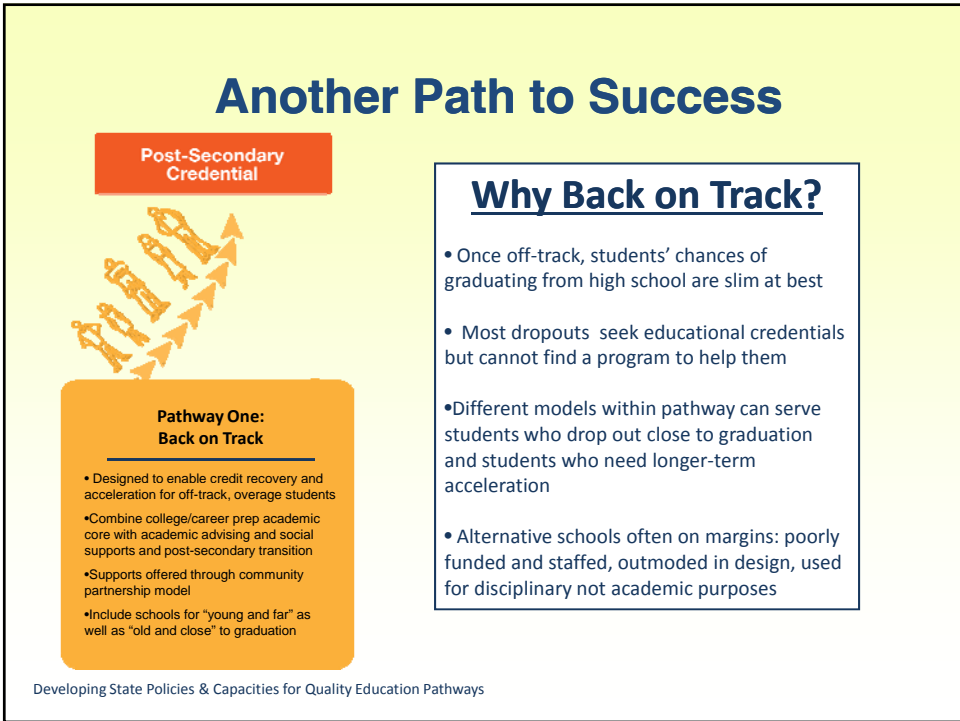
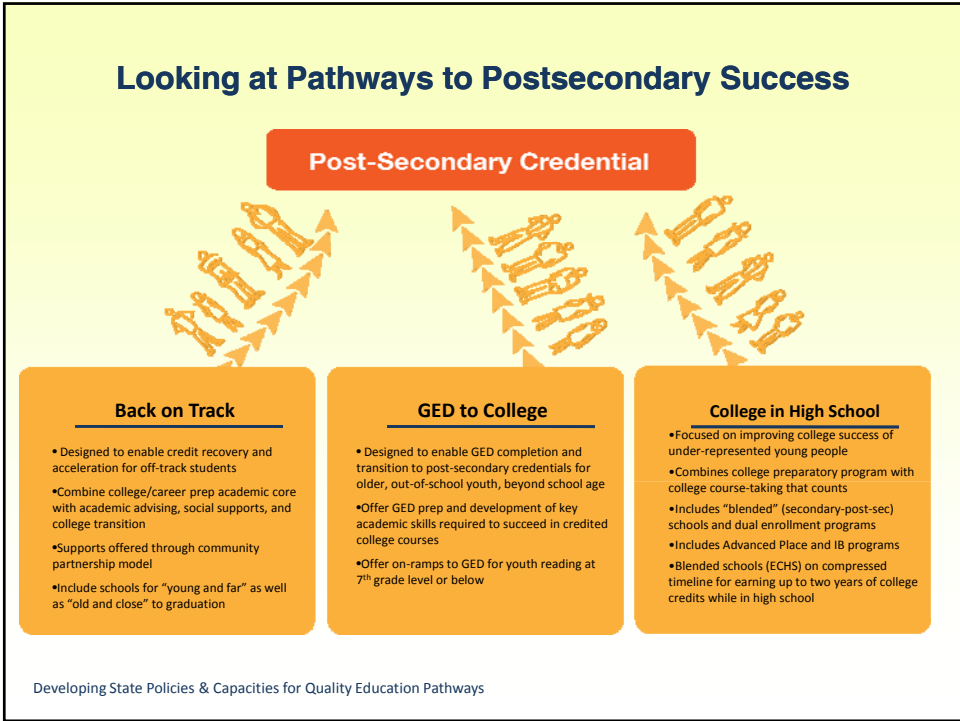


## We Would Gain Another **24** Graduates



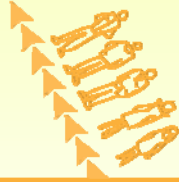
## But What Can We Do For The **36** Young People Who Will Still Drop Out?





## Another Path to Success

Post-Secondary  
Credential



### Pathway Two: GED to College

- Designed to enable GED completion and transition to post-secondary credentials for older, out-of-school youth, beyond school age
- Offer GED prep and development of key academic skills required to succeed in credited college courses
- Offer on-ramps to GED for youth reading at 7<sup>th</sup> grade level or below

### Why GED to College?

- Most dropouts try to obtain a GED, but many fail
- Of those who complete GED, only 4% go on to complete a post-secondary credential
- GED not viable for entrants with below 9<sup>th</sup> grade skills
- Promising results emerging in cities designing new GED to college pathways

## Another Path to Success

Post-Secondary  
Credential



### College in High School

- Focused on improving college success of under-represented young people
- Combines college preparatory program with college course-taking that counts
- Includes "blended" (secondary-post-sec) schools and dual enrollment programs
- Includes Advanced Place and IB programs
- Blended schools (ECHS) on compressed timeline for earning up to two years of college credits while in high school

### Why College in High School?

- Most low-income students aspire to college but lack of advising, academic prep and support undermines their success
- Dual enrollment has positive effects on college enrollment, college retention, GPA, and time to completion
- Early promising evidence emerging from first ECHS graduates
- Early research suggests cost to completion of an AA degree substantially less in ECHS vs traditional school