





# How well is our high school PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE?

Is our high school doing enough to prepare students to graduate on time ready for college-level work – and with a college or technical school acceptance letter in hand? We want you to help us answer that question.

The discussion you participated in was based on a study of thirteen high-performing New York City high schools (*Beating the Odds*, by Carol Ascher and Cindy Maguire). These schools have four-year graduation rates and college attendance above the district average. The chart below shows four qualities these schools shared and what you can look for in our school.

Effective schools...	What's happening at our school?
1. Have high expectations and challenging classes for all students. 	<input type="checkbox"/> All classes are rigorous and challenging. <input type="checkbox"/> All students take college prep and AP classes, even if they're in a tech/career program. <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers and counselors watch carefully to make sure students don't fall behind.
2. Provide timely supports to help students catch up. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Each student has an adult at school they can talk to. <input type="checkbox"/> Counselors or advisors help students set detailed plans so they can reach the goal of going to college. <input type="checkbox"/> Students get help when they need it so they can catch up quickly. <input type="checkbox"/> Students get lots of chances to improve their test-taking skills.
3. Create a college-going climate 	<input type="checkbox"/> Students and parents are invited to visit colleges and/or attend college fairs. <input type="checkbox"/> The school asks you to help plan and support your student's goal of going to college. <input type="checkbox"/> You and your student get good information about tests, courses, applications and choosing a college. <input type="checkbox"/> The school has a "college office" where you can get help and information.
4. Closely track how each student is doing. 	<input type="checkbox"/> The school lets you know what percent of its students graduate and go on to college. <input type="checkbox"/> The school keeps track of how its graduates do when they go to college. <input type="checkbox"/> The school gives you information about how students do on the college tests like the SAT.

More information about the *Beating the Odds* study (published by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University) can be found at: <http://www.annenberginstitute.org/Products/BTO.php>