

Dover Adult Learning Center - College Success Partnership (CSP)

A collaborative and supportive model for college transition between Seacoast Adult Learning Centers (ALCs) and Great Bay Community College, the College Success Partnership (CSP) strengthens the pathway to college and broadens access for adult residents of Seacoast communities (Dover, Exeter, Hampton and Portsmouth), while lowering costs and maximizing individual student success through aligned courses, integrated services and supportive programs.

Why?

- ***Increase completion rates of people testing into developmental (remedial) education.***
- Boost college readiness for all high school graduates (Adult HS, HiSET, HS Diploma).
- Support first generation college goers and other nontraditional learners into college.
- Make developmental education affordable. The cost of the adult ed class is about one third of the cost of the college class, \$60 instead of \$600 with scholarship.
- Reduce the use of Pell Grants for non-credit bearing courses.
- Decrease the number of developmental education classes taken at college. Research show that the more developmental ed classes a person take, the less likely they are to earn a degree.

What?

- ***GBCC transferred the lowest level developmental courses to Dover and Exeter Adult Learning Centers; they stopped offering these classes.***
- Math 070 and Eng097 are now offered on GBCC campuses in Portsmouth and Rochester, as well as on the ALC campuses in Dover and Exeter; classes fit into the student's college, work and transportation schedule.
- Courses are taught by adult educators, not college professors.
- Courses are fully aligned with the community college curriculum; students earning a C or better in the ALC course advance automatically to the next level course at the college. They may also take the Accuplacer again to see if they have advanced enough to skip a level.
- Dual enrollment allows students to improve basic skills while also enrolled in college and earning degree credit.
- Adult education counselors are present at the college's testing sessions to explain the process and options. Students for whom college may not be a realistic goal are introduced to educational services that might help them set and attain appropriate goals.
- Full access to the supportive services of both the ALC and GBCC.
- A 75% scholarship available to anyone who is taking other classes at the college.

How?

- ***Building understanding and trust among the partners.***
- CC and ALC staff in the Seacoast identified the challenges and low completion rates of adult students and began meeting several times a year to build understanding of each other's systems.
- Once the dual barriers of cost and low completion were understood, we aligned courses, materials and assessments.
- A pilot demonstrated outcomes, giving GBCC the level of trust needed to stop offering these courses.
- Referral and release form allowed us to communicate and collect data.
- A defined referral system between the partners ensures students don't fall through the cracks.
- We continue to work on refining and improving the process, which is fairly seamless at this point.