



# EARLY COLLEGE High Schools

## Removing Barriers to Higher Education

Early colleges are small high schools affiliated with universities and community colleges that target first-generation college students, students at risk of dropping out of high school, and students who would benefit from accelerated learning opportunities. These students have the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma as well as an associate degree or up to 2 years of transferable college credit. Numerous research studies have found that early college students are more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in postsecondary education, and more likely to earn a postsecondary credential.<sup>1</sup>

Tailored to the context of early colleges, RTI International provides support in four areas that we believe are drivers of growth:



### Teaching and Learning

Research-based professional learning  
Instructional coaching



### Leadership

One-on-one executive development for principals  
Team-based leadership development



### Strategy and Operations

Annual school planning process and early college startup  
Community and partner engagement



### Peer Networking

Network facilitation among early college staff members  
Study visits to peer schools

# Spotlight: Early College Network



## Preparing High School Students for College Success

### By the Numbers

**42** schools  
**220%** growth from 2017 through 2018

**100%** participants who agree that skills were improved

**Challenge:** The Early College network is composed of principals, counselors, college liaisons, and teachers from participating early college high schools. The group convenes regularly to share knowledge around common problems facing early college practitioners.

**Customized Support:** The network aims to

1. Increase leader effectiveness through shared learning and peer support around problems of practice
2. Use data to support network improvement
3. Leverage the collective voice and expertise of the network to influence early college high school policy and practice.

**Results:** RTI facilitates regular network convenings, each focused on a specific topic of interest defined by network members. Recent examples include learning how to maximize partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding, marketing early college, considering new staff onboarding approaches, and evaluating early college design principles.

RTI also organizes group study visits, provides topic-based research briefs, hosts expert speakers, and conducts group webinars at the request of members.

## Learn More

All children deserve a quality education that empowers them to thrive. However, each day educators are faced with new challenges driven by the accelerating pace of change. The need to perceive, understand, and act on emerging trends and practices creates added complexity and can strain capacity. At RTI, we're partnering with educators to change that.

Stacy Costello  
Education Services  
scostello@rti.org  
919.604.3288

De McKenzie  
Education Services  
dmckenzie@rti.org  
919.749.8986

<sup>1</sup>Edmunds, J.A., Bernstein, L., Unlu, F., Glennie, E., Willse, J., Smith, A. & Arshavsky, N. (2012). Expanding the start of the college pipeline: Ninth grade findings from an experimental study of the impact of the early college high school model. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 5(2), 136–159.

[www.rti.org/Education-Services](http://www.rti.org/Education-Services)

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. We combine scientific rigor and technical expertise in social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development to deliver solutions to the critical needs of clients worldwide.

RTI International is a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute. The RTI logo is a registered trademark of Research Triangle Institute.