

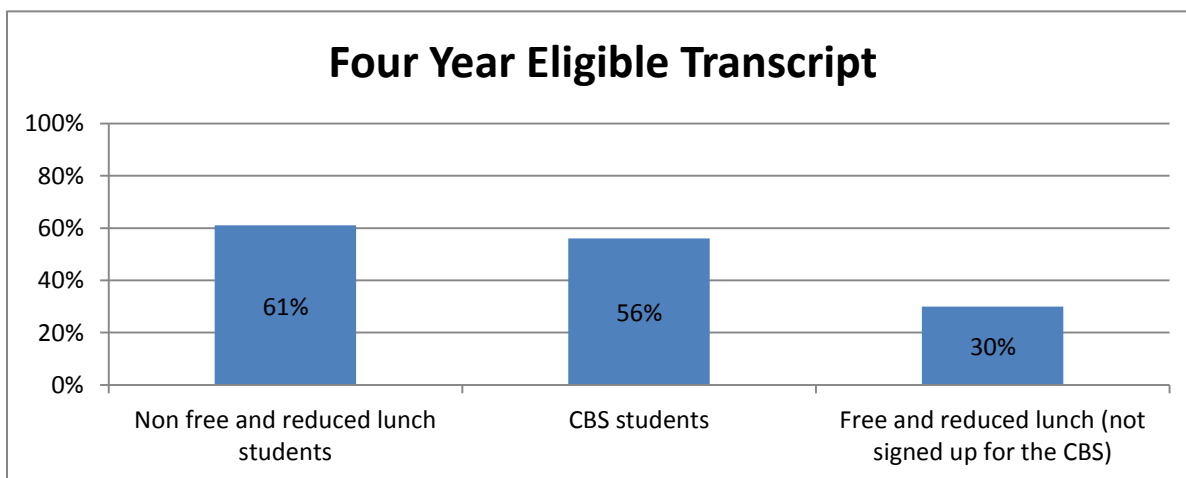
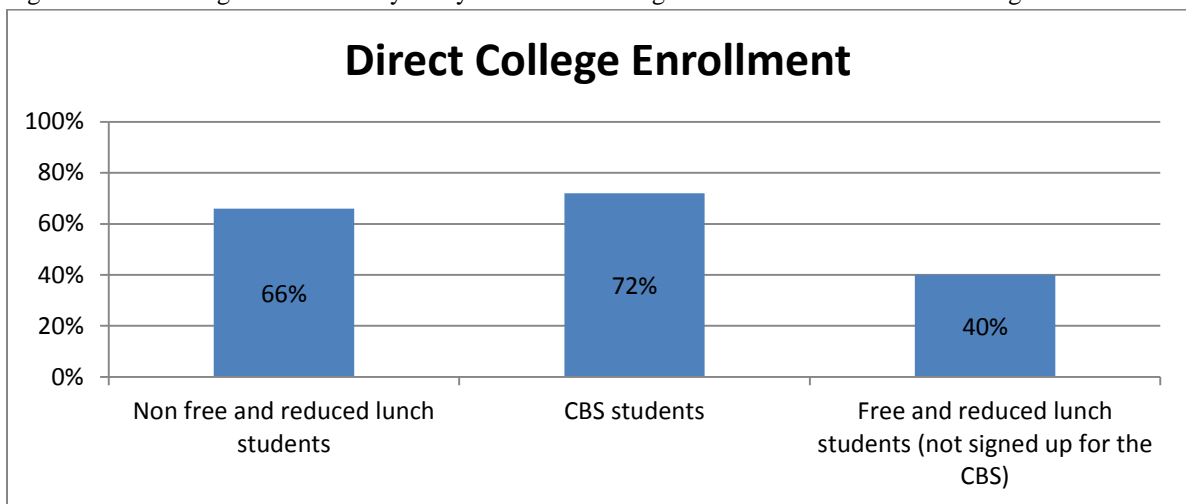
College Bound Scholarship Program Report - Top Findings and Recommendations

The purpose of this report is to provide information to College Spark Washington and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation about the impact of the College Bound Scholarship program (CBS) for the 2012 graduates, the first cohort to use it. The goal of the research is to provide a comprehensive evaluation to identify trends, variables and specific data points among CBS students that correlate with college success.

The College Bound Scholarship promises college tuition at public institution rates and up to \$500 a year for books to low-income, middle-school students who work hard in school, stay out of legal trouble, and successfully apply to a higher education institution. The amount of the Scholarship award is combined with a State Need Grant and other state funding and is implemented through the college or university as part of a financial aid award.

What are the results of the report?

- The College Bound Scholarship program closes gaps.** Compared to other low-income students not signed up for CBS, students that signed up for the CBS are doing better than other low income students with free and reduced lunch (which is used as an indicator of low income / poverty) , and similar to students that come from higher income backgrounds in nearly every measure of college readiness and success including:



- **Navigation 101 makes results even stronger.** Navigation 101 and CBS together increased the odds students will enroll and persist in college.
 - The odds of enrolling in college increased by 38 percent for CBS students who attended schools with Navigation 101 programs than those without. The students were also more likely to persist into their second year of college.
- **The College Bound Scholarship program motivates students.** CBS increases student motivation – 63 percent of CBS students said the scholarship motivated them to graduate high school and 83 percent said it motivated them to earn a higher GPA.
- **Participants say it is critical to their college attendance.** 85 percent of full-year college attendees who received the CBS reported it was critical to attending college.
- **Students are challenged to take more rigorous courses.** CBS scholars take rigorous course work that increases their odds of enrolling and persisting in college.
 - Many students enrolled in running start (21 percent) or Advanced Placement classes (63 percent). Participation in the running start program doubled students' odds of enrolling in college. Enrolling in one or more AP/IB courses in high school increased the odds by 30 percent of persisting in college.
- **The College Bound Scholarship program helps students persist in college.** The vast majority (77 percent) of CBS students persisted from their first year to second year of college.
 - Students who met the social studies, science and foreign language requirements for entrance into a four-year college were more likely to persist in college. Odds of persisting in college increased 107 percent if they met the social studies standard; 41 percent if they met the science standard; and 49 percent if they met the foreign language standard. For each additional math course a student took the odds of persisting in college increased by 26 percent.

How can CBS be improved?

The research shows that CBS is closing college attendance gaps by motivating low-income students to enroll and persist in college. To continue and improve upon the promising results of the first CBS cohort the researchers recommend the following:

- **Increase outreach and communication** – Clear and frequent communication with students of CBS' eligibility and financial expectations throughout middle and high school while empowering staff with information will increase the likelihood of CBS students' college success.
- **Create an accessible data system** – A data system creates the ability for each school to take ownership of their students and provide support at any point throughout the year.
- **Build systemic program support** – Creating buy-in for stakeholders, including school leadership and staff, provides a supportive system for CBS students. Other supports such as greater college preparation in high school and targeted supports for CBS scholars in college will help them enroll and succeed in college.