

College Spark Washington grant funds new classes helping students avoid remediation in college

SEATTLE – High school seniors needing additional help to prepare for and be successful in college and avoid remediation now have the opportunity to take *Bridge to College* transition courses in math and English Language Arts thanks to a \$3.2 million College Spark Washington grant.

Students scoring below a college-ready level on the Smarter Balanced Assessments in 11th grade will have an opportunity to take the *Bridge to College* transition courses being developed and refined by high school teachers and college faculty under the leadership of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The *Bridge to College* transition courses are currently being piloted in districts across the state including the Seattle, Shoreline, Renton and Kent school districts. A complete list of schools can be found at the bottom of the press release.

“The Bridge to College program provides an exciting opportunity for students to gain the skills necessary for college and career readiness,” said Jennifer Veliz, a literacy teacher at Chief Leschi Schools. “The program also offers a new method for students to demonstrate these skills, beyond more traditional means.”

Students who pass the courses with a B or better will be considered college-ready and eligible to enroll in credit-bearing college math at all participating Washington higher education institutions (currently the 34 community and technical colleges).

“Each year over 10,000 Washington state high school graduates going directly into public higher education institutions enroll in remedial courses,” said Bill Moore, Director for K-12 Partnerships for the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. “The College Spark Washington grant will support *Bridge to College* transition courses to help high school seniors who need additional support in math and English Language Arts to avoid remediation and increase their likelihood of success in college.”

Regional K-12 and community college partnerships will provide training and ongoing professional development for teachers planning to offer a transition course. Pilot courses will be revised this summer based on the results from this year’s outcomes and scaled broadly across the state in the 2015-16 school year.

The grant is part of College Spark Washington’s \$12 million investment over seven years in its [College-Ready Math Initiative](#) to help low-income students graduate high school with the math skills needed to avoid remediation and succeed in college.

The College-Ready Math Initiative invests in evidence-based strategies and programs designed to help students improve their score on the 11th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment, which measures a students’ growth on the Common Core State Standards. Education experts have predicted that 67 percent of the students who take the 11th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment in 2015 will score below the college-ready level on the math section of the test.

“Too many students are not developing the skills in math and English Language Arts in high school that will get them on the pathway to success in college,” said Christine McCabe, Executive Director at College Spark Washington. “*Bridge to College* transition courses give students the supports and skills in math and English Language Arts to succeed before they get to college, saving them time and money on their way to the goal of a degree.”

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[College Spark Washington](#) funds programs across Washington state that help low-income students become college-ready and earn their degrees. Grantees include community-based organizations, K-12 schools and districts, community and technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, educational nonprofits, and public agencies. College Spark began supporting access to higher education in 1978 and, since 2005, has awarded more than \$45 million to college readiness and degree completion programs throughout the state.

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MATHEMATICS PILOT DISTRICTS & SCHOOLS

School Districts / Colleges	Schools
Battle Ground	Battleground High School
Cascadia CC	N/A
Central Valley	University High School
Central Kitsap	Olympic High School
Clark College	N/A
Grandview	Grandview High School
Kelso	Kelso High School
Mead	Mt. Spokane High School
Rochester	Rochester High School
Seattle	Franklin High School
Shoreline	Shorecrest High School Shorewood High School
South Kitsap	South Kitsap High School

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PILOT DISTRICTS & SCHOOLS

* Note: English teachers are pilot-testing individual instructional modules, not full courses.

School Districts	Schools
Aberdeen	Harbor High School
Anacortes	Anacortes High School
Castle Rock	Castle Rock High School
Central Kitsap	West Alternative
Deer Park	Deer Park High School
Everett	ACES High School
Evergreen	Evergreen High School
Freeman	Freeman High School
Kent	Kentridge High School
Lake Stevens	Lake Stevens High School
Newport	Newport High School

North Kitsap	Kingston High School
North Mason	North Mason High School
Ocean Beach	Ilwaco High School
Olympia	Avanti High School
Othello	Othello High School
Port Angeles	Port Angeles High School
Quilcene	Quilcene High School
Renton	Lindbergh High School
Richland	Richland High School
Rosalia	Rosalia High School
Seattle	Chief Leschi High School
Sequim	Sequim High School
Shoreline	Shoreline High School Shorewood High School
South Kitsap	South Kitsap High School
Spokane	Shadle Park High School On Track Academy
Tumwater	Tumwater High School
Vancouver	Hudson's Bay High School Columbia River High School
Walla Walla	Walla Walla High School
Wapato	Wapato High School
West Valley	Dishman Hills High School