

Innovations in College and Career Readiness

Improve Outcomes for Students in Rural Tennessee



About the Consortium

The U.S. Department of Education awarded the Niswonger Foundation a five-year Investing in Innovation (i3) grant in 2010 to create the Northeast Tennessee College and Career Ready Consortium.

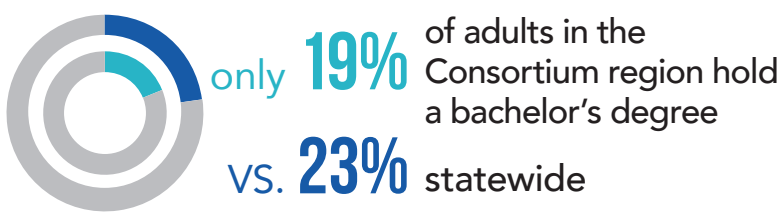
The Consortium aimed to improve students' college and career readiness by scaling up local promising practices, including providing distance and online learning, forming college partnerships to increase dual enrollment, offering professional development for teachers, and providing college and career counseling to students.

Contextual Factors



Median income:
\$33,628 Consortium counties
vs. **\$37,077** statewide

55% of Consortium schools are located in rural areas.
27% of the school-age population in the Consortium region lives below the poverty line vs. **24%** statewide.



Fidelity of Implementation

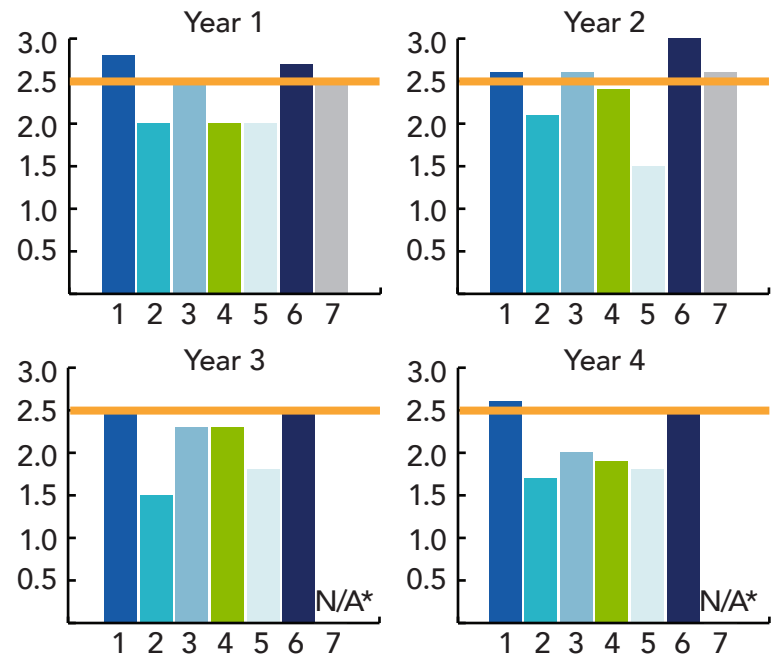
The components that consistently received high implementation ratings were in Consortium leadership, resources and services to provide program infrastructure, and collaboration with district partners.

Key program components:

- Consortium leadership provides management and communication.
- College and career counselors team promotes a college-going culture.
- Learning resources team raises quality of instruction.
- Learning resources team expands access to courses through distance and online technology.
- Learning resources team increases opportunities for college-level courses.
- Resources and services provide infrastructure to expand and sustain program capacity.
- Schools collaborate with Consortium partners.

Fidelity of Implementation Ratings, by Year

Rating above 2.5: Implemented with Fidelity



*Fidelity measures were incorporated into other components in years 3 and 4 based on programmatic changes to the Consortium during those years.

Consortium's Impact on Student Outcomes

CNA Education examined the Consortium's impact on student outcomes after up to four full years of exposure to the intervention. We compared each participating school with a matched Tennessee non-Consortium school with similar characteristics.

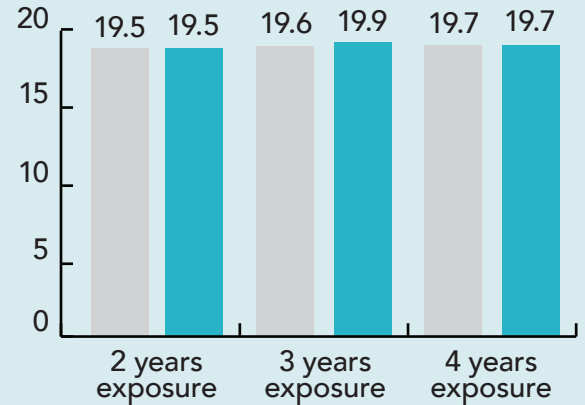
We found that the Niswonger Foundation i3 grant has statistically significant effects on:

- College readiness (after 3 years of exposure).
- AP participation (after 2, 3, and 4 years of exposure).
- AP performance (after 3 and 4 years of exposure).
- College enrollment (after 3 years of exposure).
- College persistence (after 2 and 3 years of exposure).

■ Comparison Schools ■ Consortium Schools

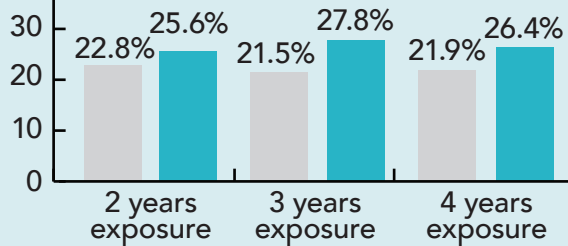
College Readiness

Composite ACT Scores



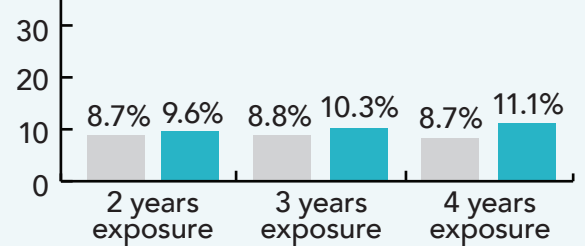
AP Participation

Probability of enrolling in an AP course



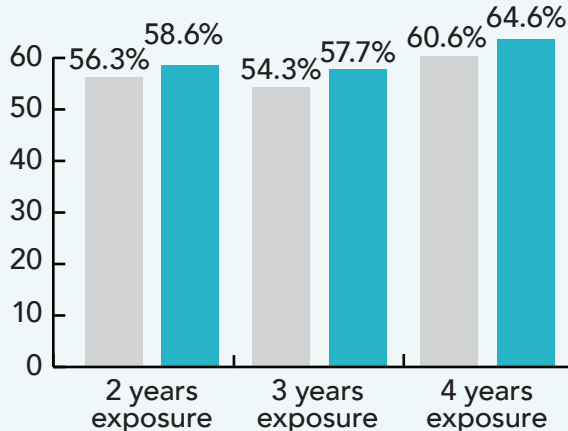
AP Performance

Probability of earning an AP exam score of 3 or higher



College Enrollment

Probability of enrolling in college



College Persistence

Probability of persisting in college for two consecutive fall semesters

