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$x-y=?$

## Defining the Problem

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# San Diego Math Symposium: a Community College Perspective 

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## The Problem

## Statewide



## Placement Is Destiny

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\begin{array}{|l|l|}\hline \begin{array}{l}\text { Students' Starting Placement } \\
\text { Mathematics }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { \% Completing } \\
\text { Transfer-Level Math } \\
\text { in 3 Years }\end{array} \\
\hline \text { One Level Below } & 35 \% \\
\hline \text { Two Levels Below } & 15 \%\end{array}
$$ \begin{array}{l}Across CA, more than <br>
half of Black and <br>
Hispanic students in <br>
remedial math <br>

begin here\end{array}\right]\)| Three or more Levels Below |
| :--- |

Statewide data, Basic Skills Cohort Tracker, Fall ‘09-Spring ‘I2

## Placement drives inequity

A 2015 study of the three colleges in Contra Costa County estimates that 5060\% of racial inequities in degree completion and transfer-readiness is explained by initial placement.

- Greg Stoup

President, RP Group

## Do students placed into remediation complete AA/AS degree requirements in math?

Statewide completion of intermediate algebra (or "college-level" math) in 6 years for students enrolled in developmental math

- Overall: 34\%
- African Americans: 20\%
- Hispanics: 33\%
- White: 39\%


## Do students complete transfer requirements in math?

Statewide completion of transfer-level math in two years for students completing 6 -units and enrolling in any math
-Overall: 29\%

- African Americans: 16\%
- Hispanics: 21\%
- White: 34\%


## We can do better!

What college in the San Diego area is performing dramatically above statewide averages?

Cuyamaca College

## Completion of Transfer-Level Math at Cuyamaca

For under-prepared students, completion of transferlevel math in one year:

- Overall: 67\% in one year (vs. $29 \%$ of all math takers statewide in two years)
- African Americans: 55\% (vs. 16\%)
- Hispanics: 65\% (vs. 21\%)


## What is Cuyamaca doing in math?

## CHANGES TO PLACEMENT

- Traditional approach: Testing

Standardized test used to identify students who need additional preparation

- Cuyamaca approach: High School Grades

Self-reported high school GPA and/or math course performance used to place students

Impact on direct placement into transfer-level math

- Fall 2015: 24\% with disproportionate impact for students of color.
- Fall 2016: 84\% with NO disproportionate impact


## CHANGES IN APPROACH TO REMEDIATION

- Traditional approach: Long sequences

Students scoring below "transfer-level" required to enroll in one to four developmental math courses

- Cuyamaca approach: Co-requisites

No courses below intermediate algebra. The vast majority mainstreamed into transfer-level with concurrent support options.

## CHANGES IN APPROACH TO REMEDIATION

- Traditional approach: One-size-fits-few

All students seeking degree or transfer required to demonstrate competency in intermediate algebra before taking transfer-level math, regardless of its relevance to program of study

- Cuyamaca approach: Math Pathways

Concurrent support aligned with five programs of study: General Ed, STEM, Business, Education, Technical

## CHANGES IN APPROACH TO TEACHING

- Traditional approach: Predominantly lecture with focus on procedural skills
- Cuyamaca approach: "Brains-on" activity-based, contextualized, with just-in-time remediation


## CSU policy changes on the horizon ...

- Anticipated revision of CSU Executive Order 1100: Media reports that CSU will no longer require intermediate algebra for general education math courses
- CSU currently allowing statistics pathways for some Transfer Model Curriculum (lower division major prep in the ADTs) and investigating whether intermediate algebra competencies are needed for others


## UC and statistics pathways

- Statway articulates to UC
- UC Transfer Course Agreement (TCA) for Statistics does not require intermediate algebra


## AB 705: Legislation for System-Level Policy

- Requires community colleges to use high school grades in English/math placement and maximize students' likelihood of completing transfer-level courses within one year
- Prohibits colleges from requiring remedial courses that lengthen students' time to degree unless placement research shows that they are "highly unlikely" to succeed in transfer-level courses
- Provides for colleges to require students to receive extra support in corequisite models instead of stand-alone remedial courses
- Passed unanimously in the CA Assembly and Senate Education Committee. Senate vote will take place in September.

