

## ACT Research and Policy

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## Information Brief

# Early High School Achievement and College Enrollment

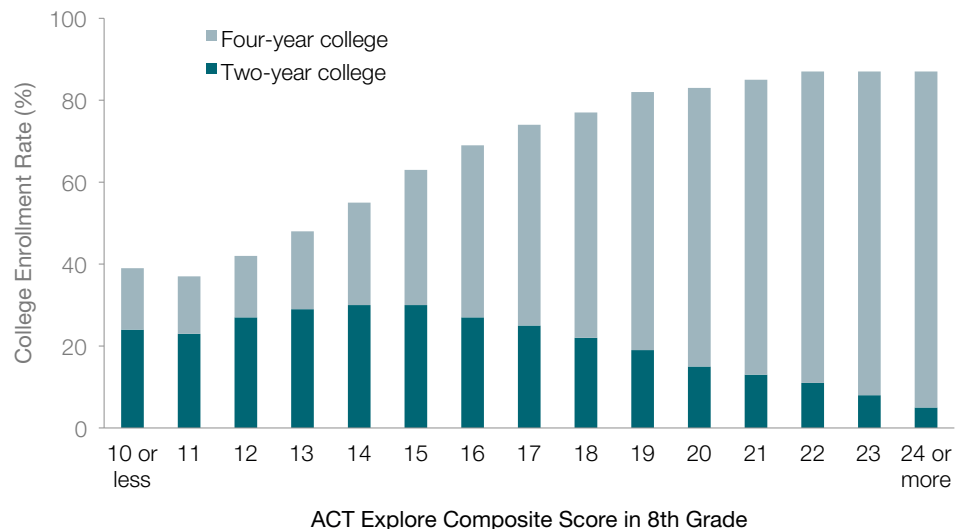
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- College enrollment increases with 8th-grade academic achievement.
- Students with lower 8th-grade academic achievement are more likely to enroll in two-year colleges.

An earlier ACT study found a relationship between 8th-grade achievement, as measured by ACT Explore® Composite scores, and later college enrollment.<sup>1</sup> The figure below shows several trends:

- The rate of enrollment in both two-year and four-year colleges increases as 8th-grade academic achievement increases.
- The rate of enrollment in four-year colleges increases sharply as 8th-grade academic achievement increases.
- The rate of enrollment in two-year colleges decreases as 8th-grade academic achievement increases.

### College Enrollment Rates by ACT Explore Composite Score



Note: These results are based on the EPAS sample of 2009 high school diploma graduates. The college enrollment data are based on matching these graduation records with college enrollment data from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC). The NSC provides college enrollment for 96 percent of all public and private institutions in the United States.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Buddin, *Implications of Educational Attainment Trends for Labor Market Outcomes*. ACT Research Report No. 2012-7 (Iowa City, IA: ACT, Inc., 2012).

[infobrief@act.org](mailto:infobrief@act.org) for more information or to suggest ideas for future ACT Information Briefs.



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