

# STREAMLINING THE TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE MATH

## DANA CENTER LAUNCH YEARS INITIATIVE

### THE CHALLENGE

While much has been done, more work is needed to ensure all students are supported in achieving their educational potential. Because of the current structures of our educational systems, mathematics has posed a particular barrier for students, especially those from diverse backgrounds and low-income families. That's because too often, well-intentioned efforts to transform high school mathematics have lacked connectivity to the trends in higher education and the changing needs of today's workforce.

Yet we know that students' success in college is greatly influenced by the mathematics they learn, how they learn it, and how they see themselves as a learner and doer of mathematics. That's why we believe it is time to better align the mathematics courses and expectations from high school to postsecondary education.

### OUR SOLUTION – LAUNCH YEARS

The Dana Center's Launch Years initiative seeks to usher in a new paradigm to support students, specifically focusing on the transition from junior year of high school to their junior year in postsecondary education. It is this timeframe that's critical in supporting students for college preparation and guiding them through pathways for degree attainment. The Launch Years initiative is backed by a \$6.68 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

### COLLABORATORS



Since 1991, the Charles A. Dana Center has worked across K-12 and higher education institutions to dismantle barriers to ensure all students—especially those from diverse ethnic backgrounds and low-income families—have equitable access to an excellent education and pathways to prepare for postsecondary and career success.



CCRC has been a leader in the field of community college research and reform for over 20 years. CCRC's work provides a foundation for innovations in policy and practice that help give every community college student the best chance of success.



ESG is a mission-driven consulting firm that works with K-12, higher education and workforce leaders to achieve greater impact. ESG works across sectors and across the aisle to move the needle on issues that are critical to improving student success.



Achieve is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit education organization committed to making sure every student graduates from high school ready to succeed. Achieve works with states and partners to design, develop, adopt and implement policies to raise academic standards and graduation requirements, improve assessments, and strengthen accountability.

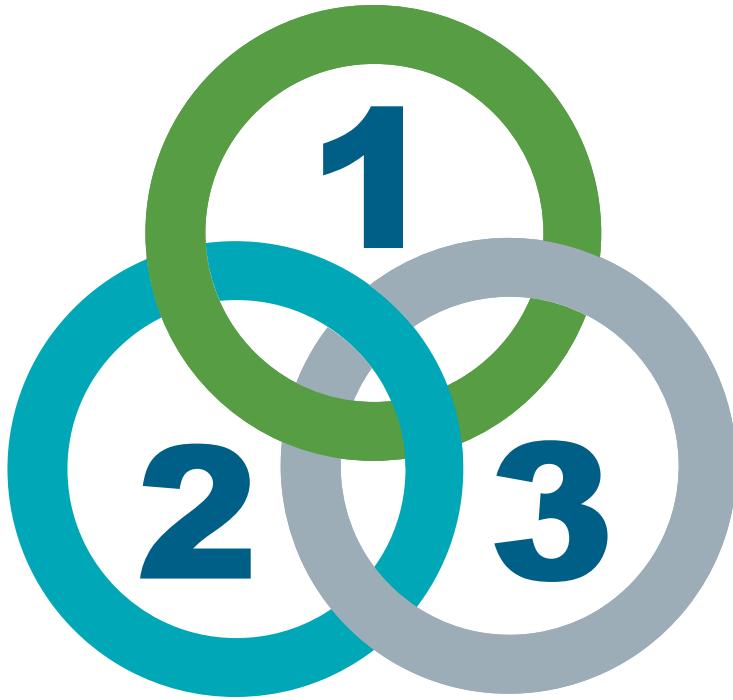


The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement.



## THE LAUNCH YEARS APPROACH

This multi-year strategy focuses on the ground in several states to assess the high school mathematics students can access every day in the classroom. It also seeks to bring K-12 and higher education institutions together at a regional level to ensure students have clear paths for success. From these learnings, open access resources will be developed and made available to schools and districts in all states to better support students.



### STRATEGY 1: AGREEMENT

Create consensus around a common understanding of mathematics pathways that extend from high school into post-secondary education and prepare students for success.

### STRATEGY 2: OUTREACH

Mobilize a wide range of constituencies to advance the new paradigm for college and career readiness in mathematics and reduce persistent equity gaps.

### STRATEGY 3: TOOLS

Create new pathways for math instruction in the third and fourth years of high school and initiate the implementation of transition math courses.

“Focusing on the critical junior-to-junior year timeframe, the Launch Years initiative puts forward a fundamentally new approach to mathematics. It maintains the rigor needed for postsecondary degrees and high-demand jobs, while also creating new pathways for significantly more students — including those traditionally underserved — to thrive in college and realize their dreams.”

**Uri Treisman**  
Executive Director  
The Charles A. Dana Center

## LEARN MORE

Explore the Launch Years initiative. Learn more about our goals and the challenges we aim to address:  
[www.utdanacenter.org/launch-years](http://www.utdanacenter.org/launch-years)