

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION WORKSHEET

I. List the Learning(s) that this recommendation is addressing:

1. A good education is one of the major factors in helping to overcome poverty.
 2. Our schools do not do a good job of teaching children living in poverty
- **WRITE THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION** (limit focus to one subject or action item, more than one recommendation may be needed to address a particular learning):**

Athens Clarke County School System and the University of Georgia pursue an Early College Program beginning at 7th grade.

- **Identify any research, or other kinds of information that was used to craft this recommendation.** (add additional sheets as necessary)
 1. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation were looking for a site for an Early College program in Georgia to start in fall of '08.
 3. Early College Programs involve partnerships between colleges and small high schools and middle schools to allow students to graduate high school with an associate degree (60 hours)
 4. Early College target first generation college students from low income families.
- **Identify additional research or information that could help clarify this committee recommendation. List potential sources if possible.**
- **Indicate people or groups that we need to talk to help clarify this committee recommendation. List any recommended locations.**
- **What kind of action or resources would be necessary to implement the recommendation?**

II. Indicate what forces and influences are likely to occur that will support or oppose implementation.

Forces that support (please list):

Forces that oppose (please list):

****As information is received and/or clarified, these potential recommendations may change or be discarded.**

Early College High Schools

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Early college high schools provide a unique opportunity for traditionally underserved students to earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit, which can be applied toward an associate's or a bachelor's degree. The design of early college high schools is intended not only to increase high school graduation rates but also to raise the level of college-readiness, particularly among minority and low-income youth.

Since 2001, more than \$124 million has been committed by foundations to support the creation of more than 170 early college high schools in 25 states. Each high school works closely with a partner college or university to expose its students to the resources, rigor, and intensity of college-level academics, while still providing appropriate personal support.

In addition to preparing students for college academically, the program will reduce the time and the money ultimately needed to earn a postsecondary degree. By 2008, early college high schools are expected to serve more than 65,000 students nation-wide.

Facts at a Glance

Early college high schools are serving students who are least likely to graduate prepared for work or college:

- Nearly three-fourths of early college high schools have at least a 50 percent minority student body.
- Half of early college high school students are eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- Nearly two-thirds of early college high schools enroll at least 5 percent of their students with Individualized Education Plans.

Early college high schools are already having a significant impact on underserved youth:

- Existing schools report average attendance rates over 90 percent, indicating high levels of student engagement and commitment to the academic program.
- Most ninth graders in early college high schools enroll in one to two college-level courses and earn grades of C or better.
- Promotion rates at existing schools exceed 90 percent.

Approaches

- **Students take college courses, frequently on a college campus.**
- **Schools set high expectations for all students.**
- **Schools assist and guide students through the college admissions and financial aid processes.**