

# Bard Early Colleges

## BARD COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL SETTINGS

*We should also explore innovative approaches being pursued here in New York City; innovations like Bard High School Early College . . . that are challenging students to complete high school and earn a free associate's degree or college credit in just four years.* —President Obama, speech to the NAACP, July 16, 2009

### ABOUT BARD EARLY COLLEGES

Bard Early Colleges are founded on the belief that many high-school-age students are eager and ready for the intellectual challenges of a college education. Bard Early Colleges—satellite campuses of Bard College in public school settings—act on this belief by providing younger scholars with a tuition-free, credit-bearing college course of study in the liberal arts and sciences following the 9th and 10th grades. Students are taught by college faculty in undergraduate seminars; they receive up to 60 college credits and an associate in arts (A.A.) degree from Bard College, concurrently with a high school diploma. Bard Early Colleges begin preparing students for college work as early as the 9th grade and offer ongoing guidance and academic supports.

Our full-time students (those enrolled in the Bard High School Early Colleges) earn up to two years of college credit and an A.A. from Bard College; our part-time students (those enrolled in the Bard Early College Centers) earn up to one year of college credit from Bard College.

### ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

While programmatic aspects of Bard's Early Colleges vary to meet local needs, all campuses possess the same fundamental characteristics:

- Tuition-free, credit-bearing college courses
- Structured liberal arts and sciences curriculum
- College faculty who are active and accomplished in their fields
- Inquiry- and discussion-based classes across disciplines
- Individualized student supports and college guidance
- Campus location in a public school setting

### HISTORY

Bard College entered the early college movement in 1979, when Bard College at Simon's Rock: The Early College—the first private, residential college for young learners—joined the Bard network. This inspired Bard to develop the early college model in a public school setting.

Now in its second decade, the Bard Early College Network includes campuses (in order of establishment) in Manhattan, New York; Queens, New York; New Orleans, Louisiana; Newark, New Jersey; the Harlem Children's Zone, New York; Cleveland; Ohio; and Baltimore, Maryland. To date, Bard College has awarded a total of 2,176 associate in arts degrees to its early college students.

### CORE PRINCIPLES

- Inspire and prepare high-school-age students through a rigorous liberal arts and sciences college course of study that emphasizes critical thinking, writing, inquiry, and discourse
- Improve college access, affordability, and completion for adolescents by allowing them to earn up to two years of tuition-free, transferable Bard College credits and an associate's degree
- Bring the best qualities of American liberal arts college education—embodied in challenging discussion-based courses led by talented academics—to public school settings

### SAVINGS

Bard Early Colleges save students and the government thousands of dollars in reduced higher education costs—through the transfer of Bard credits from the early college to a four-year undergraduate institution, lower remedial education rates among students, and higher college graduation rates.

- Savings to students and families of up to approximately \$27,000 for students at public colleges and \$72,600 for students at private colleges\*
- Savings of up to approximately \$18,200 per student for associate's degree-granting public institutions and \$28,600 per student for bachelor's degree-granting public institutions\*

\*Savings based on a two-year reduction in the time taken to complete a degree

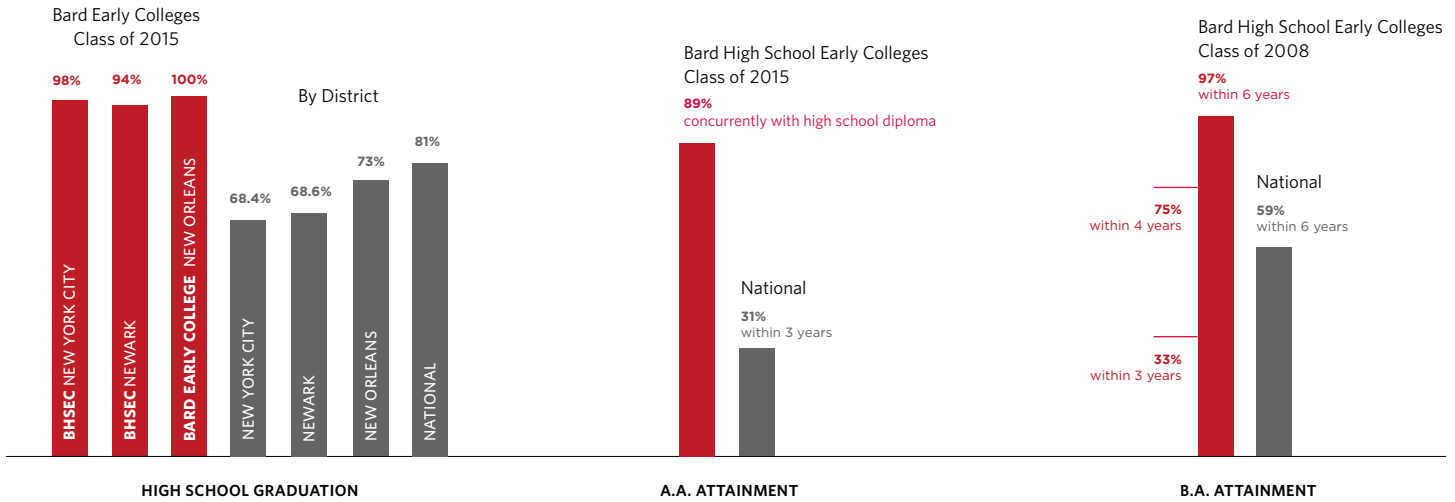


BHSEC was truly an eye-opening experience and it will always remain in my heart as the birthplace of my intellectual adventure.

—Abdel-Rahman Ahmed '12, BHSEC Queens

### ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

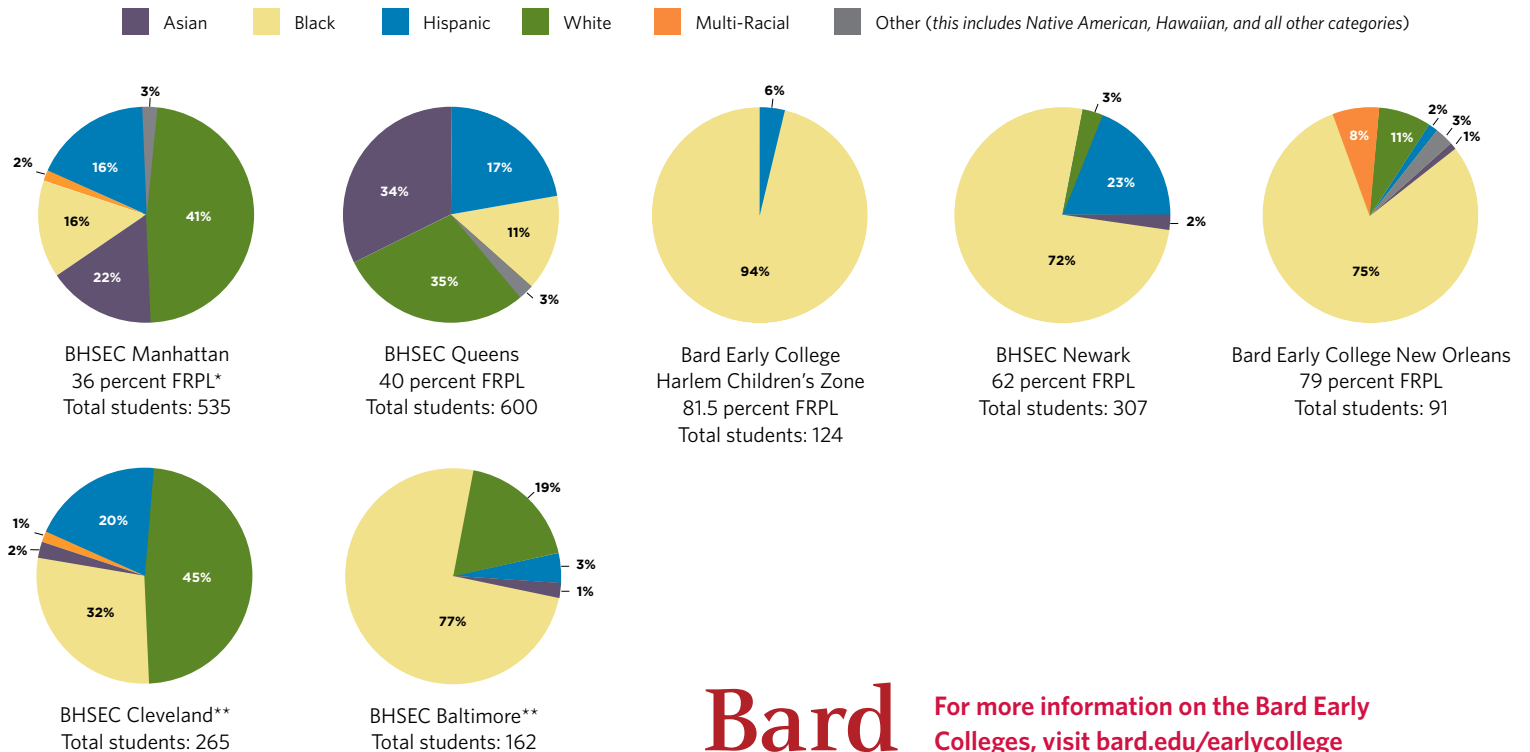
Bard Early Colleges achieve remarkable results



- Over 30 percent of Bard High School Early College alumni/ae degrees are in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields

### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2015-16

Bard Early Colleges enroll student bodies that reflect the diversity of their cities



**Bard** For more information on the Bard Early Colleges, visit [bard.edu/earlycollege](http://bard.edu/earlycollege)

\*Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL)  
 \*\*All students in the district receive free meals

Photos: Scott Barrow and Craig Mulcahy  
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