

Bard Early Colleges

BRINGING THE LIBERAL ARTS TO HIGH SCHOOL

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 partnerships between public school districts and Bard College, offering students a tuition-free, liberal arts college education as part of their four-year public high school program. Students are taught by college faculty in undergraduate seminars, and 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 save students and states thousands of dollars in reduced higher education costs, realized through the associate's degree and the transfer of Bard credits from the early college to a four-year undergraduate institution.

HISTORY

Bard College at Simon's Rock: The Early College, the first private four-year early college in the country, became part of Bard College in 1979. This inspired Bard to develop the early college model in partnership with public school districts. The first publicly funded Bard Early College was Bard High School Early College (BHSEC) Manhattan, which opened in 2001. Building on the success of the Manhattan school, Bard has since established early colleges in Queens, New York; New Orleans, Louisiana; and most recently, Newark, New Jersey. In 2012, Bard Early Colleges awarded more than 275 A.A. degrees, with a total of 1,298 degrees bestowed since 2003.

INNOVATIONS

Bard Early Colleges:

- Embed a rigorous, liberal arts college education within public high schools through small classes taught by accomplished college faculty, most of whom hold Ph.D.s in their fields.
- Constitute laboratories for innovations in pedagogy and curricula that promote success in college.
- Offer a way to leverage the resources of private colleges and universities to provide an excellent education in public secondary schools.
- Prove that intellectually curious adolescents from diverse backgrounds can thrive in demanding college classes, starting at age 16.

SAVINGS

Bard Early Colleges provide:

- 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 \$14,000 per student for public associate's degree-granting institutions and \$22,000 per student for public bachelor's degree-granting institutions*

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

A visit to Bard High School Early College is a glimpse into the realm of the possible. . . . One of the things BHSEC has shown is that kids from widely different backgrounds . . . can thrive in an intellectual environment that is much more intellectually demanding than your typical high school.

—Bob Herbert, *New York Times*, "A Very Bright Idea," May 17, 2010

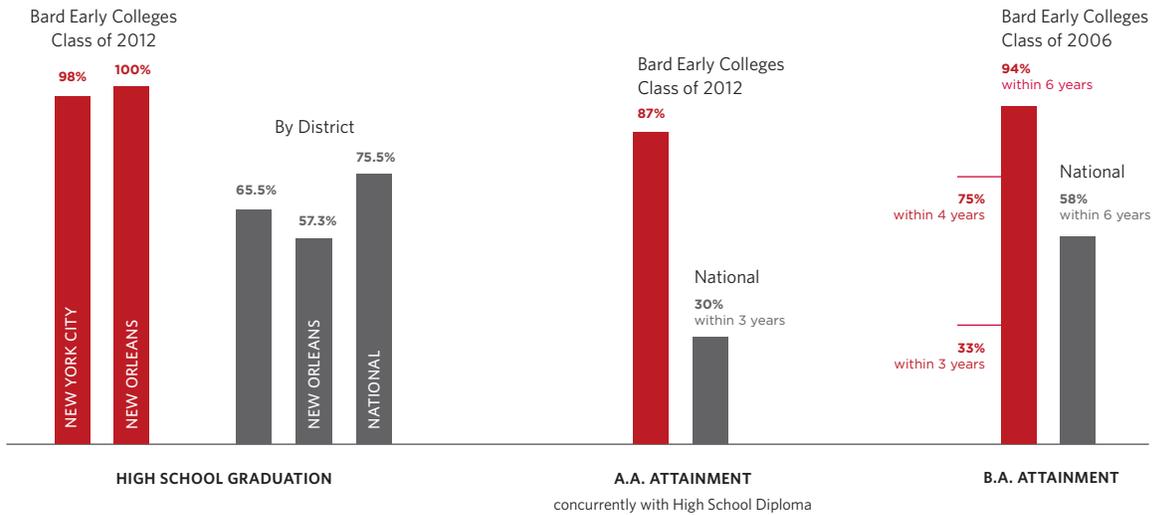


BHSEC was truly an eye-opening experience and it will always remain in my heart as the birthplace of my intellectual adventure.

—Abdel-Rahman Ahmed '12, BHSEC Queens

ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

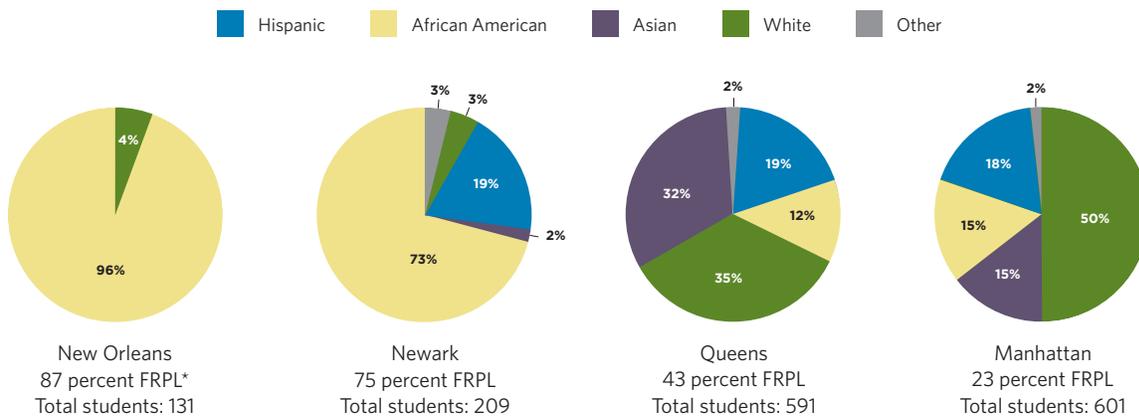
Bard Early Colleges achieve remarkable results



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

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS 2012-13

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



*Free and reduced-price lunch

- Many Bard Early College students are among the first in their families to earn a college degree: 31% have a parent who did not graduate from college (85% New Orleans, 54% Newark, 21% New York City)
- Many Bard Early College students speak a language other than English at home (31% New York City, 28% Newark)

For more information on Bard Early Colleges, visit www.bard.edu/earlycollege

Photos: Scott Barrow and Craig Mulcahy
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