How well is our high school
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE?

Is our high school doing enough to prepare students to graduate on time ready for college-level work – and with a college or technical school acceptance letter in hand? We want you to help us answer that question.

The discussion you participated in was based on a study of thirteen high-performing New York City high schools (*Beating the Odds*, by Carol Ascher and Cindy Maguire). These schools have four-year graduation rates and college attendance above the district average. The chart below shows four qualities these schools shared and what you can look for in our school.

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<th>Effective schools...</th>
<th>What’s happening at our school?</th>
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| 1. Have high expectations and challenging classes for all students. | □ All classes are rigorous and challenging.  
□ All students take college prep and AP classes, even if they’re in a tech/career program.  
□ Teachers and counselors watch carefully to make sure students don’t fall behind. |
| 2. Provide timely supports to help students catch up. | □ Each student has an adult at school they can talk to.  
□ Counselors or advisors help students set detailed plans so they can reach the goal of going to college.  
□ Students get help when they need it so they can catch up quickly.  
□ Students get lots of chances to improve their test-taking skills. |
| 3. Create a college-going climate | □ Students and parents are invited to visit colleges and/or attend college fairs.  
□ The school asks you to help plan and support your student’s goal of going to college.  
□ You and your student get good information about tests, courses, applications and choosing a college.  
□ The school has a “college office” where you can get help and information. |
| 4. Closely track how each student is doing. | □ The school lets you know what percent of its students graduate and go on to college.  
□ The school keeps track of how its graduates do when they go to college.  
□ The school gives you information about how students do on the college tests like the SAT. |

More information about the *Beating the Odds* study (published by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University) can be found at: http://www.annenberginstitute.org/Products/BTO.php