



# COLORADO

Department of  
Higher Education

## Erasing Equity Gaps through Supplemental Academic Instruction

Many students arrive to their college campus without the skills necessary to complete college-level coursework in math and English and are often placed in remedial (*developmental education*) classes. Traditional remediation requires students to take stand-alone, precollegiate courses **before** enrolling in college-level courses. Students pay the same rate for these courses even though they do not apply toward their degree. This system increases costs and time to degree, causing too many of these students to drop out.



Traditional remediation fails too many students, particularly students of color.



This bill phases in a better approach to remedial education called supplemental academic instruction, a best practice for student success and erasing equity gaps.



If students are enrolled in SAI, then they are more likely to complete their postsecondary education.

Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) allows students to enroll in introductory courses with additional academic support, which can take many forms depending on the institution. Students enrolled in SAI receive college-level coursework immediately while receiving relevant academic support.

### SAI WORKS

SAI is showing promising results in Colorado. The **Colorado Community College System's** 2017 update on developmental education found that since implementing SAI

- English pass rates increased from **36 percent to 74 percent**
- Math pass rates increased from **16 percent to 40 percent**.

The **Community College of Denver** found SAI increased the average number of gateway course credits students accumulate in their first year by **78 percent**. Pell Grant recipients and students from underrepresented groups saw even more significant gains.

While Colorado has seen broad adoption of SAI, progress has stalled. Between 2014 and 2015 the number of traditional course enrollments dropped 66 percent, but between 2016 and 2017 they increased. In 2017 there were still 32,000 enrollments. This is the time to commit to scaling this important reform that we know works.

### ERASING OUR EQUITY GAPS

Since minority students and those from lower income brackets are more likely to need remediation and students in traditional remediation are less likely to succeed, traditional remedial courses exacerbate disparities in student success.

To erase equity gaps, Colorado must take significant action to support every student who enrolls in a Colorado institution. As institutions serve a growing diverse population, SAI will help more students gain the skills and confidence to succeed in college-level work.

#### Placement in Development Education

**52.1%**

African American

**39.2%**

Hispanic

**19.0%**

White

Meets the strategic goals of *Colorado Rises* to



Erase Equity Gaps



Improve Student Success

### For More Information

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