

**Cambridge College Success Initiative  
Working Group Draft 7/25/11**

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**Problem Statement:**

Many Cambridge learners (youth and adults) are making it to college but do not have the skills, knowledge and continuing support they need to persist and succeed. They are not always prepared for what to expect financially, socially, and academically, or how to find a good college match. Overcoming these obstacles requires the collaboration of school personnel, out-of-school time personnel, alternative and adult education providers, and youth and families from across the city.

**Goals:**

- Cambridge students will be well prepared for college
- Cambridge parents will be well informed about college
- Cambridge students will find a college that is a good match
- Cambridge students will graduate from college in a timely way

**Priority populations:**

- Middle school, high school, out of school youth, and adults, including students who are first-generation to college or low-income
- Immigrants with no U.S. college experience
- Students who have or have previously had an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

**Assumptions:**

- Many students go to college but do not necessarily graduate within 6 years.
- Cambridge has a variety of programs that provide ongoing support to students in their college aspirations, but they are not coordinated and do not have all the resources and information they need.
- A central office with dedicated staff will be able to better coordinate the various efforts in Cambridge to support college access and success for the priority populations.

**Proposal:**

Establish an office with dedicated staff to formalize and support a network of services for college success and to organize follow up support for Cambridge students who have matriculated into college.

**Activities:**

Role of the college success office staff to support students before they attend college:

- Identify and formalize network of services within and outside the Cambridge Public Schools, including programs for in-school youth, out-of-school youth and adults

- Lead collaborative process to define the elements of college readiness that this initiative will focus on (e.g. academic, personal/social, financial, college knowledge, career awareness)
- Identify, create, and provide resources to schools and programs, including resources on
  - College matching
  - Financial aid
  - College readiness
  - Family involvement
  - Mentoring; maintaining connections to students in college
- Provide training to direct service staff around the city on college readiness topics
- Work with the Cambridge Public Schools and community partners to develop and implement workshops for parents, caregivers, and prospective students on college choices, college readiness, financial aid, expectations and transitions, and other related topics.

**Role of the college success office staff to support students as they transition into and attend college:**

- Compile data on college entrance and progress of Cambridge students; analyze data and share results
- Establish partnerships with higher education institutions that enroll significant numbers of Cambridge students
- Recruit, select, train, and supervise Cambridge residents who have successfully completed at least 2-3 years of college to serve as mentors to students transitioning into or in their early years of college
- Establish a series of workshops over the summer for Cambridge students matriculating into college that: prepares them for the transition; begins to foster connections with the above-mentioned mentors; and establishes connections among cohorts of students who will be attending the same institutions

**Governance:**

Governance of the initiative will be through a multi-organization board.

**Evaluation:**

- Develop clearly articulated outcomes for the program
- Develop evaluation process
- Evaluate outcomes

## DRAFT BUDGET

Line Item	Funding Request
<b>Staff</b> Full-time College Success Coordinator 5 Alumni Mentors \$15/hr x 10 hrs x 40 wks = \$6,000 \$15/hr x 25 hrs x 12 wks = \$4,500	\$48,000  \$52,500
<b>Fringe</b> (35% for Coordinator)	\$16,800
<b>Contract Services</b> Workshop presenters and training resources  Evaluation  Database development for tracking student info/outcomes	\$13,000  \$5,000  \$4,000
<b>Higher Education Partnership Activities</b> (targeted support services, development of learning communities, Accuplacer test prep, etc.)	\$15,000
<b>Stipends</b> Student incentives for participation in summer program \$150 book stipend for 50 students  Stipends for school-based staff	\$7,500  \$1,200
<b>Office Supplies</b>	\$3,000
<b>Equipment</b> (computer, printer, and copier)	\$2,500
<b>Workshop Supplies</b> (food, etc.)	\$7,500
<b>Communication Costs</b> (phones)	\$1,000
<b>Outreach Materials</b>	\$3,000
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>\$180,000</b>