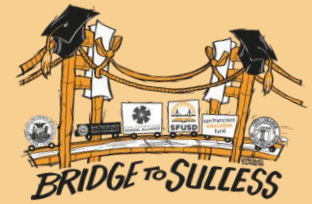


# Placement Re-take Policy



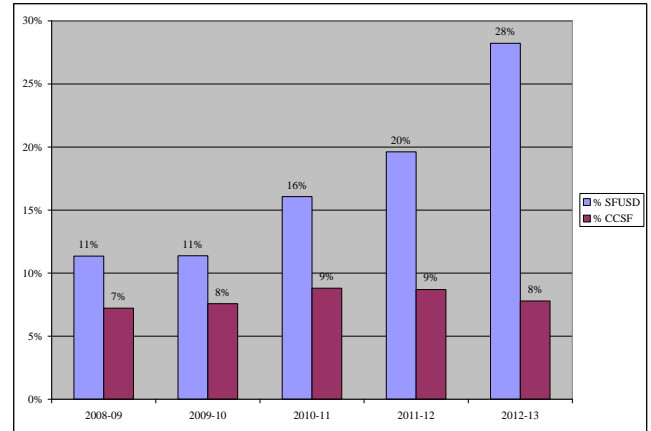
## SHORTER WAIT FOR PLACEMENT RE-TEST SHOWS ENCOURAGING RESULTS

For many years, up to 93% of the approximate 1,000 SFUSD graduates who attend City College each year were placed into remedial math or English courses based on their performance on City College’s placement tests. Focus groups with students and counselors revealed that many students did not understand the importance of the placement tests and that City College’s policy of waiting three months to re-take the tests may have impeded some students’ progress at City College. The 3-month wait to re-take test delayed the opportunity for students to actually place at the level they believed themselves to be.

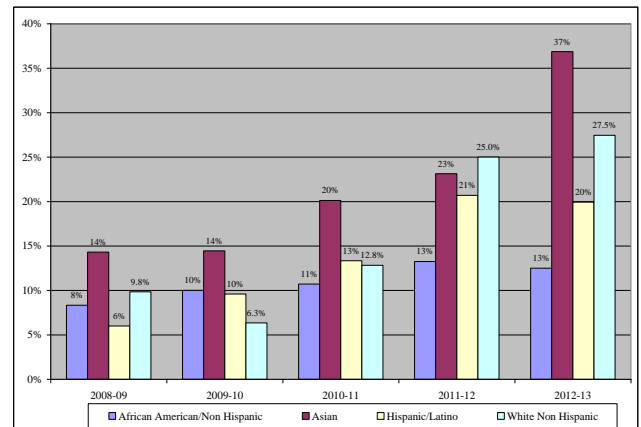
In 2009, City College changed the wait to re-take the English and Math placement tests to two weeks. This effort was coupled with increased messaging to SFUSD students to take the placement test seriously since placing well can accelerate the completion of a degree at City College. As a result, re-testing of English by SFUSD students increased from 16.9 percent in 2008 to 23.8 percent in 2011, compared to the general CCSF entering students whose rate of re-testing remained relatively steady from 2008 to 2012. Re-taking of the math placement by SFUSD students rose from 11.35 percent in 2008 to 28 percent in 2012, while the rate remained steady for all City College first-time students at 8%.

The results are promising, particularly for African American and Latino SFUSD students. English re-testing rates increased from 14.3 percent in 2008 to 19 percent in 2011 for African American students, and from 17 percent in 2008 to 24.8 percent in 2011 for Latino students. Math re-testing rose from 8.3 percent in 2008 to 12.5 percent in 2012 for African American students, and from 6 percent in 2008 to 19.9 percent in 2012 for Latino students.

Re-testing has resulted in higher placement for more than 60 percent of the students who re-tested in English, and by 2012, 57 percent of students placing higher in math. Overall the new re-take policy coupled with emphasizing the importance of the test can shorten completion time for students as they move on to 4-year universities or attain other educational goals.



**Above:** Comparison of students from SFUSD and all first-time City College students re-taking math placement test over time  
**Below:** Rates of SFUSD students re-taking math placement test by ethnicity over time



**Below:** Percent of students who place higher in after re-taking City College math placement test

