Ohio Strong Start to Finish: Overview

Friday, November 3, 2017
What is Strong Start to Finish?

• Strong Start to Finish is a national initiative to improve the percentage of students successfully completing gateway mathematics and English in their first year of college study [https://strongstart.org/](https://strongstart.org/)

• Grew out of collaborative work between philanthropy and national higher education intermediary organizations
What is Strong Start to Finish?

- Core Principles for Transforming Remediation within a Comprehensive Student Success Strategy [http://www.core-principles.org/](http://www.core-principles.org/)

- Research indicates getting students on degree path as well as out of developmental education cycle and through gateway courses leads to improved retention, persistence, and completion.

- Focus on equity
Guided Degree Pathways

Guided pathways establish **clear academic maps** for a degree program and indicate **sequencing of milestone courses** along the way to a degree

- Systemic approaches
- Structured choice
- Intensive advising
Redesigned Mathematics Gateway Courses

• The work of the Ohio Mathematics Initiative to develop multiple mathematics pathways appropriate to the major.
  – STEM
  – Statistics
  – Quantitative Reasoning
Corequisite Remediation

Students enroll directly into college-level courses and receive simultaneous academic support.
What is Strong Start to Finish?

- 3 year, $2.25 million grant
- Coalition of funders: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation, and Kresge Foundation
- Education Commission of the States (ECS) is the fiscal agent and administers the grant
- Ohio Strong Start to Finish is one of 9 sites selected from 47 letters of interest
- 3 - possibly 4 - sites to be selected
- Full proposal due December 1, 2017
Ohio Strong Start to Finish

• Collaborative effort to develop statewide response to Strong Start to Finish grant opportunity
  – ODHE
  – OACC
  – IUC
Builds on Current Efforts

• Outcomes-Based Funding
• Campus Completion Plans
• Ohio Mathematics Initiative
• Ohio Mathematics Bridges to Success
• Uniform Statewide Standards for Remediation-Free Status
• OACC Guided Pathways Initiative
• Institutional Student Success Efforts, including
  – Intrusive advising
  – Corequisite remediation
  – Placement
Ohio Strong Start to Finish Goal

- Beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year, participating Ohio colleges and universities commit to doubling the participating college and university aggregate percentage of new degree-seeking students completing their gateway mathematics and English courses as part of a guided pathway within their first academic year.
Focus on Promoting 4 Priority Actions

1. Ensuring that clearly structured programs of study exist for all majors;

2. Aligning redesigned gateway mathematics and English courses to programs of study;

3. Implementing co-requisite remediation strategies at scale in mathematics and English; and

4. Implementing redesigned advising structures to ensure all students register for coursework in sequences to meet the goal
State Level Actions

Working Groups

• **Placement:** Clarifying placement strategies for students falling above and below the remediation-free thresholds

• **Advising:** Developing models and frameworks for comprehensive advising practices that ensure all students are effectively advised about guided pathways, including appropriate mathematics and English gateway courses

• **Co-requisite Models:** Leveraging the efforts of the OMI on co-requisite remediation, identify and disseminate successful models for co-requisite remediation to include syllabi and other course materials
Institutional Level Actions and Supports

• Supports activities related to four priority action areas
  – Already underway on your campus
  – Promoting new efforts

• Statewide learning network of participating institutions

• Technical assistance for best practices at group meetings/summits

• Campus-based implementation coaching/technical assistance

• Modest grant award for strategic activities to promote implementation on your campus (amount will depend in part on the number of schools participating)

• Increased student retention, persistence, and completion
Request to Institutions

• Email sent to all Presidents on October 24, 2017 requesting consideration of committing to be part of Ohio Strong Start to Finish
  – Overview of the opportunity
  – Copy of letter of interest submitted to ECS
  – Institutional data on outcomes

• Seeking commitment from institutions to participate in Ohio Strong Start to Finish no later than **November 8, 2017 at 5:00 p.m**
Key Dates

- Letter of Commitment by President – November 8
- Full Proposal Submission to ECS – December 1
- Notification of Award – February 2018
- Initiative Launch – March 2018
Thank you!

Questions?

For additional questions

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