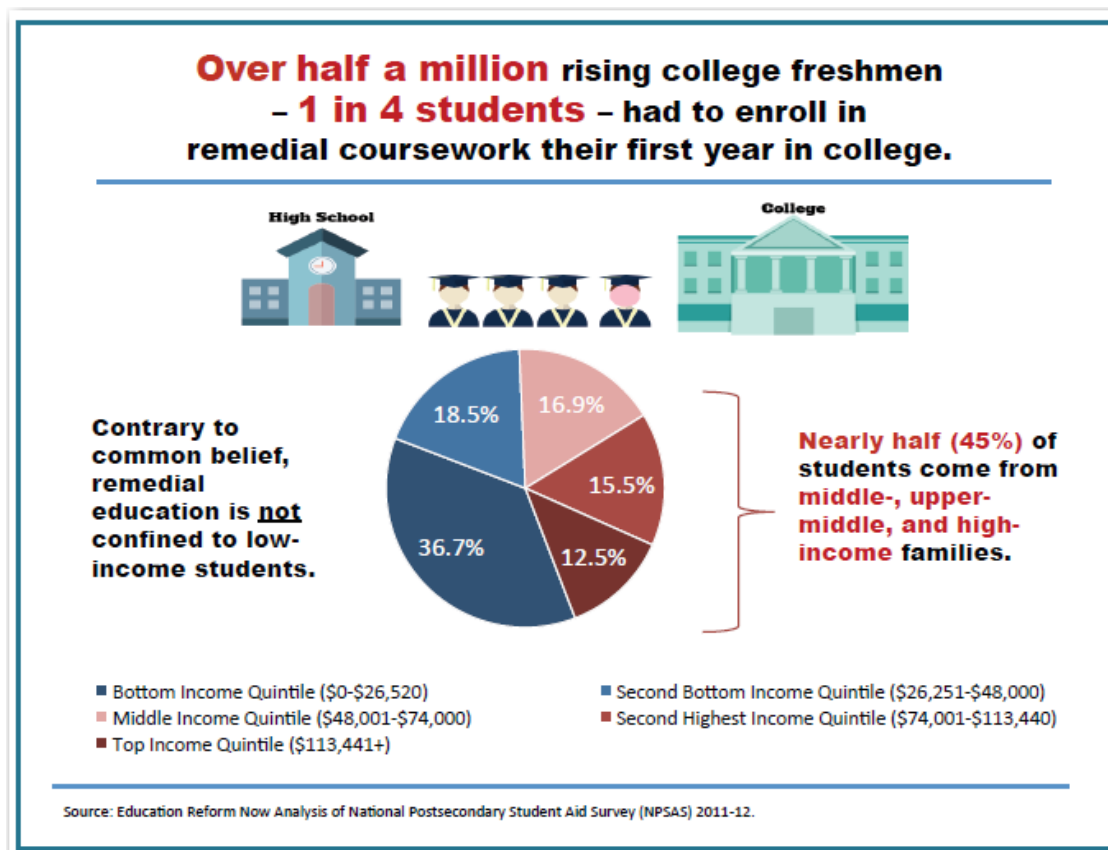


Inadequate high school education costing big in college

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Every year, in colleges across America, students are taking classes that will earn them zero credits towards a degree. These classes cover content that should have been learned in high school and are costing billions of dollars. A new study by the Institute for Higher Education calls this “an expansive failure of our K-12 education system to prepare students to be ready academically for college on day one.”



The study, [Out of Pocket: The High Cost of Inadequate High Schools and High School Student Achievement on College Affordability](#) (link to full report below chart), found that, contrary to popular belief, this does not affect just low-income students or students attending community college. On average, students report taking two remedial classes in their first year of college, but this picture changes if one looks only at the data from private four-year colleges.

Report link: https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/files/EdReformNow%20O-P%20Embargoed%20Final.pdf

“In the most expensive colleges and universities,” the study said, “the wealthiest students need more remedial education than the poorest ones.” Students from the highest 20 percent of family incomes are taking an average of 2.7 remedial courses, compared with 1.6 for students from families from the lowest 20 percent of income.

This creates a burden on families and driving up the cost of a college education. The study calculated a cost of \$1,500 per remedial class and, with an average of two classes, that is an additional \$3,000 in content that should have been learned in high school. The additional cost can be a barrier to higher education for low-income students and, when multiplied across all students, the numbers are staggering. For those who were freshmen in 2011, the cost was nearly \$1.5 billion, adding an additional \$380 million to student loan debt across the country.

While the financial cost is significant, there is the opportunity cost to consider as well, the study found. These students are substantially more likely to drop out of college, resulting in a loss of earning power that can then lead to student loan defaults. Students who do graduate take longer to do so on average, resulting in a loss of earnings for both groups to different degrees.

The study concludes that the effects of remedial education have been downplayed and need to be addressed. “Students cannot afford,” the study ends, “to be taught to disparate expectations any longer. Their pocketbooks – and ultimately America’s – have suffered enough.”

Article Source: <http://watchdog.org/263289/study-inadequate-high-school-education-costing-big-college/>

Address the root of the problem: in-service K-12 teachers with new, particularly out-of-field assignments, who need instructional and mentoring support that leads to improved student achievement and the lessening of the need for remedial college courses. See the Teaching and Learning Foundation supported university program at http://thetlf.org/TLF_Universities.html for a solution.