



SPOTLIGHTING COLLEGESPRING'S PROGRAM IN DETROIT

CollegeSpring is a 501(c)(3), mission-driven nonprofit that helps students who are impacted by poverty demonstrate their full potential on college and career readiness assessments to unlock better opportunities after high school. Since 2008, CollegeSpring has helped level the playing field for more than 40,000 students by partnering with schools and educators to provide equitable test preparation during the school day.

THE OPTIMAL ZONE

CollegeSpring maximizes its impact by partnering with schools, districts, and nonprofits that meet the following criteria:

- 50%+ free and reduced-price lunch eligibility
- Average SAT scores under 1000
- A junior class of at least 75 students



WHY DETROIT?

More than 80% of Detroit students meet CollegeSpring's Optimal Zone criteria.

- The SAT is a high school graduation requirement in Michigan, and teachers are evaluated based on student score improvement.
- Performing well on the SAT helps Detroit students gain admission to college, match with institutions that have better financial, emotional, and academic support systems, and test out of remedial coursework.
- In Detroit, SAT scores are directly linked to students' eligibility for the *Detroit Promise Scholarship*, which guarantees full tuition to one of 26 partnering Michigan colleges and universities, for students who live in Detroit and graduate from a Detroit high school.



CollegeSpring can create the path for DPSCD schools to meet graduation requirements, creating better opportunities for students.

The Detroit Public School Community District (DPSCD) has partnered with CollegeSpring since 2020 to provide SAT prep to over 3,700 students.

DETROIT, MI (2021-2022)

2,000

students served

63

teachers supported

DPSCD has identified high-quality, school-day SAT prep as a top priority for the district's students. Although SAT scores are critical to postsecondary opportunity, Detroit students have limited access to SAT prep outside of school. For the past two years, despite tight budgets, learning recovery challenges, and other pandemic-related disruptions, DPSCD has contracted with CollegeSpring to provide SAT curriculum, teacher training, and instructional coaching across the district's high schools.

As a result of our partnership, the number of teachers trained in CollegeSpring's test prep curriculum increased, and students gained access to free, high-quality, school-day SAT prep increasing educational and economic opportunities for Detroit students.



77% of teachers

were satisfied with the program and agreed that CollegeSpring's support increased their ability to effectively deliver the test prep curriculum.



82% of students

surveyed reported feeling prepared to take the SAT.

"I love the differentiated instruction. . . I use that as additional practice.

I also love the test-taking strategies, and we actively use them when completing some of our assignments. Glad the district is staying with CollegeSpring."

— Karen Lemmons, DPSCD teacher

WHAT'S NEXT?

We seek to create a meaningful impact on every student, resulting in a sustainable model for continuing progress in Detroit and beyond.

- CollegeSpring will expand our partnership with DPSCD to improve students' postsecondary readiness and test scores that increases their eligibility for college admission and scholarships.
- Building on learnings from the first two years of the program, we are customizing strategies that increase participation, improve implementation fidelity, and support teachers at more schools.
- To prepare DPSCD students for the new Digital SAT in 2024, we will launch a Digital SAT curriculum in fall 2023 that emphasizes digital literacy and tailors training and instructional coaching to the new test format.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Strong relationships with partners across the district, including administration, school counselors, and teachers, are instrumental to our success.
- 2 Data on student testing remains integral to our work and understanding how we can best serve students.
- 3 Providing time, beyond planning periods, for teachers to engage in coaching and professional development activities increases their participation and supports student success.