PRECOLLEGE MILESTONES
COMPLETION OF DEVELOPMENTAL WRITING SEQUENCE: VIRGINIA

Among first-time Virginia Community College students enrolled in transfer programs in fall 2004 and referred to developmental writing, percentage who completed the developmental writing sequence

What Is Measured?
Percentage of students who completed a developmental writing sequence within four years

Who Is Counted?
First-time students enrolled in transfer programs in the summer or fall 2004 terms who were referred to a developmental writing course

What It Tells Us
About two-fifths (43 percent) of incoming Virginia Community College System (VCCS) students who were referred to a developmental writing course one level below the college level completed the developmental writing sequence, while 24 percent of those referred to a course two levels below the college level completed the sequence.

Why It’s Important
Most beginning community college students must complete at least one developmental education course in mathematics or English (reading, writing, or both), and many must complete multiple courses in one or more subjects (Bailey, Jeong, & Cho, 2010). Completing the highest-level developmental course in a subject is the final precollege milestone and is often required to transfer to a four-year institution or to earn a certificate or associate degree.

ABOUT THE DATA
Developmental writing courses: include writing courses one level below the college level (ENG03) and two levels below the college level (ENG01).

First-time college students enrolled in VCCS in the summer or fall 2004 terms who had no prior college credits other than those earned through high school dual-enrollment programs. The sample includes students in transfer and career-tech programs as well as those concurrently enrolled in high school. These students were followed for four years through the 2008 summer term.

DATA SOURCE