



Fall 2020

Executive Summary

- Students participating in the South Bay Promise are performing better than other first-time students who are not participating in the South Bay Promise on many key early indicators.
- Within the South Bay Promise, emphasis should be placed on improving Black/African American and Latino student outcomes.
- Emphasis should also be placed on ensuring all students within the South Bay Promise are able to participate in one of the many student support programs available at El Camino College, or the college should establish a way for all students to receive similar supports. Students who do not participate in a student support program perform worse than those who do participate in a support program. Black/African American and Latino students are disproportionately not involved in support cohorts.

What is the South Bay Promise?

The South Bay Promise (SBP) is an initiative by which El Camino College commits to help students transition from high school to college by providing financial, educational, and social support to students enrolling at the College directly after high school. It has expanded from serving 12 students from three high schools in the Fall 2014 term to serving over 1,500 students coming from high schools across the area during the Fall 2020 term. Students served receive financial assistance, personalized counseling, priority registration, and additional support through involvement in specified cohort groups (First Year Experience, EOP&S, Athletics, etc.), although, cohort involvement was originally not a part of the SBP.

Demographics and Meta Majors

The student demographics of the 1,550 students participating in the Fall 2020 SBP cohort matches the college demographics, with Latino students slightly over-represented and Black or African American students slightly under represented in the cohort.

Table 1: Student Demographics

	Fall 2020 SBP Cohort	ECC
Latino	59%	53%
Black or African American	9%	13%
Asian	14%	15%
White	15%	14%

Source: Institutional Research and Planning

Students in the SBP Fall 2020 cohort are represented in each of the college’s Meta Majors, as determined by their active major on record. Health and Community Wellness is the largest represented Meta Major (see table 2 below). It is followed by Behavioral and Social Sciences (19%) and STEM majors (16%).

Table 2: SBP Students by Meta Major

	Students	% of Fall 2020 SBP Cohort
Health and Community Wellness	349	23%
Behavioral and Social Sciences	302	19%
STEM	253	16%
Business	218	14%
Creative Arts	165	11%
Industry and Technology	121	8%
Unknown	91	6%
Languages, Composition, Journalism	51	3%

Source: Institutional Research and Planning

Financial Support and Support Cohorts

Two key components of the South Bay Promise are financial support for college fees and involvement in a cohort that provides guidance to navigate the college. While some students do receive financial support through SBP funds to pay college fees, 70% of the SBP students pay for their college fees through Pell Grants or California Promise Grants. Most SBP students (73%) are involved in one of the college cohorts (table 3 below).

Table 3: Cohorts Serving South Bay Promise Students¹

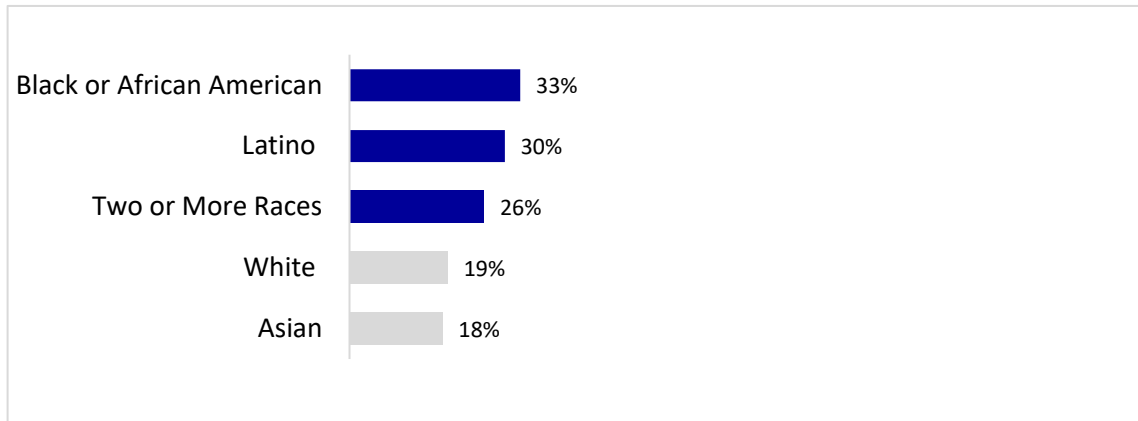
Support Service	% of SPB served
FYE	42%
Honors Transfer Program	19%
EOP&S	10%
Athletics	8%
Special Resource Center	6%
MESA/ASEM	4%
Puente	4%
Project Success	2%

Source: Institutional Research and Planning

Some racial/ethnic student groups in the SBP are not being served by cohorts. African American, Latino, and multi-racial students have less involvement with support cohorts than Asian and White SBP students (figure 1 below).

¹ The percentages do not add to 73% because students may be involved in more than one cohort.

Figure 1: SBP Students not Utilizing Support Cohort by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Institutional Research and Planning

Student Outcomes: Fall 2020

Student outcomes for the Fall 2020 semester were disaggregated for metrics considered to be important initial indicators for student success.

South Bay Promise students complete more units

South Bay Promise students attempted 4.6 units and earned 3.8 units more than other first-time students, on average, during the Fall 2020 semester. SBP students in cohorts earned an average of 12.6 units while those who were not in cohorts earned 10.1. Non-SBP first-time students averaged 8.3 compared to the overall average of 12.1 units.

Table 4: SBP and Non-SBP Students: Units Attempted and Completed

Fall 2020 Students	Units Attempted	Units Earned
SBP Students	14.2	12.1
• Cohort SBP Students	14.6	12.6
• Non-Cohort SBP Students	13.1	10.1
Non-SBP First Time Students	9.6	8.3

Source: Institutional Research and Planning

South Bay Promise students have higher course success rates, but SBP Latino and Black or African American students perform as non-SBP students

In Fall 2020, SBP students successfully completed courses with a C grade or better 69% of the time. By contrast, non-SBP first-time students successfully completed 62% of their courses. Latino and Black or African American students in SBP had success rates on par with non-SBP first-time students. Although these two racial/ethnic groups of students are part of SBP, there are still disproportionately impacted since their performance is alike those first-time students who are not part of the South Bay Promise. Students who were not part of a support cohort had course success rates below 50%.

Table 5: Course Success Rate by Group

	SBP	First-time, non-SBP	No Cohort	SBP Asian	SBP Black/African Am	SBP Latino	SBP White
Success Rate	69%	62%	49%	85%	62%	63%	82%

Source: Institutional Research and Planning

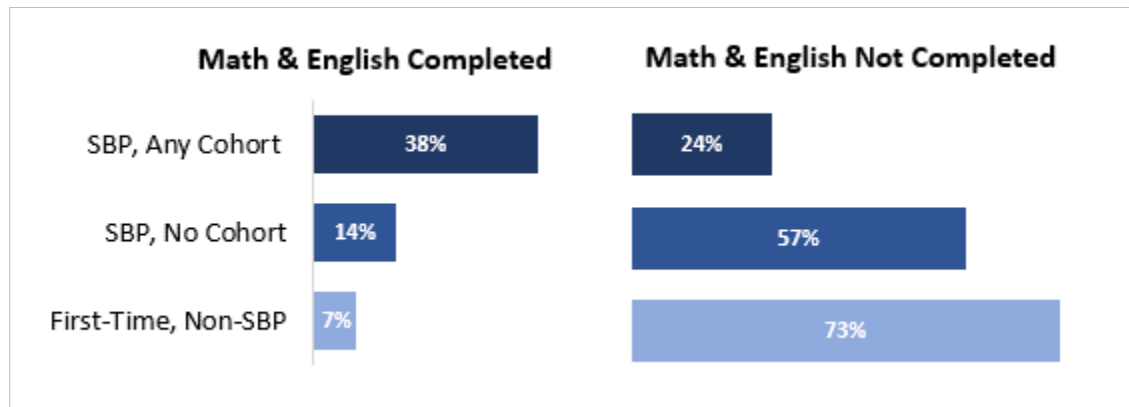
South bay Promise students return for a second semester

South Bay Promise students have high retention rates, with 85% returning for the spring semester. All race/ethnicity, gender, and cohort groups had retention rates of at least 80%. However, the SBP student group that was not affiliated with a support cohort had retention rates of 67%. This was still higher than the non-SBP comparison group, which had a retention rate of 62%.

South Bay Promise students are far ahead in completion of math and English requirements

El Camino College is trying to emphasize completion of math and English requirements early in a student’s course of study. As shown in figure 2, SBP students have a higher rate of completing both math and English in the first term, and a lower rate of not completing these courses. SBP students who are not part of a cohort still show better results than non-SBP students, but not as well as cohorted SBP students.

Figure 2: SBP students complete math AND English at higher rates and are less likely to not complete these courses²

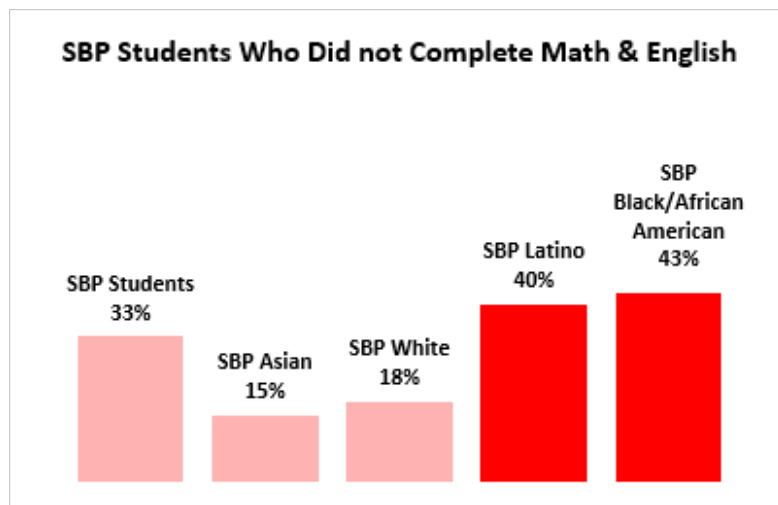


Source: Institutional Research and Planning

There is a clear difference in outcomes when we look at SBP students who have not completed math or English. More than twice the percentage of African American (43%) and Latino (40%) SBP students completed neither math nor English, compared to their Asian (15%) and White (18%) counterparts.

² Percentages do not sum up to 100% because students not completing any of the courses and students completing only one of them (either mat or English) are not included in the figure.

Figure 3: More Black and Latinos SBP students are not completing math or English



Source: Institutional Research and Planning

Conclusions

Students participating in the South Bay Promise when they begin their studies at El Camino College are performing better than other first-time students on many important early indicators for student success. They are taking and completing more units, passing a greater percentage of courses, succeeding in key math and English courses necessary for program completion and transfer to four-year institutions, and they are coming back for a second semester in greater percentages. These early indicators were all identified as important markers for student success in graduation, transfer, and career goals. However, these successes are not equal as African American and Latino students perform closer to non-SBP students in each of these metrics.

Even though South Bay Promise students receive much of their financial support through Pell Grants and the California Promise Grant, and most of the student support is provided by other programs on campus, the SBP organization is still promoting positive student outcomes. Even students who did not participate in a student cohort were producing better outcomes than non-SBP students. However, the outcomes of these students were not at the same level as students in cohorts, indicating participation in a cohort has a considerable impact in promoting positive outcomes. Black/African American and Latino SBP students have relatively low support cohort participation rates.

Recommendations

- Because providing student support is a central component of the South Bay Promise, coordinators should continue to work in partnership with the support programs.
- Working closely with support programs to guide students towards the program that best suits their specific needs could reduce duplication of services and free up spaces for other students who need this support.
- Students participating in multiple cohorts reduces the number of spaces available to SBP students by 22%. Priority should be given to placing Black or African American and Latino students in an appropriate support program, as these students are under-represented in the support cohorts and show lower outcomes among students participating in SBP.