



NAVIANCE
BY HOBSONS



Case Study

Chicago Public Schools



IL

Chicago, IL

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is the third largest school district in the United States.



361,000

Student population

The district has a large population of underserved students, with 76% of students qualifying as economically disadvantaged.



2015

Naviance client

Chicago Public Schools has been a Naviance client since 2015.

Focusing on Transitions to Improve Postsecondary Outcomes

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is the third largest school district in the United States, serving more than 361,000 students. The district has a large population of underserved students, with 76% of students qualifying as economically disadvantaged. CPS is focused on ensuring that all students, regardless of their economic background, receive a high quality education that prepares each student for success in college, career and civic life.

Through the use of Naviance and by focusing on transitions, the district has achieved a college enrollment rate of 68%, a 13% increase in just two years, and a 36% increase since 2006. Transition Skills is one of the six key competencies identified in the research-backed [College, Career and Life Readiness Framework](#).

Challenge

Around 30% of Chicago Public Schools students who intend to go to college do not enroll in the fall after graduation. Annually, that adds up to 5,000 students each year who experience “summer melt”, the term used for students who have indicated their intent to enroll in a postsecondary institution but do not actually enroll in the fall after senior year.

CPS quickly realized that a driving factor behind their summer melt challenge was that students were not prepared for the transition from high school to a higher education institution. In addition, many students were struggling with transitions earlier as well. Their data showed that transitioning from 8th to 9th grade was a crucial time for students to stay on track.

Solution

CPS began using Naviance in 2015 to help students develop the skill sets and mindsets needed to achieve postsecondary success. Naviance is used to support Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s “Learn. Plan. Succeed” plan, which establishes a graduation requirement for students to identify a specific postsecondary path.

Transitioning from Middle to High School

To support students through the transitions they experience throughout their education journey, CPS developed a district-wide strategy. The first transition many students struggle with is from middle school to high school. “We lose many of our students during the transition from 8th to 9th grade for a variety of reasons,” said Patrick Milton, Executive Director of the Office of School Counseling

“Naviance has allowed us to conduct detailed monitoring to 1) See if students are on track to a concrete postsecondary plan, 2) Identify at-risk students, and 3) Flag specific concerns and determine outreach.”

Patrick Milton, Executive Director of the Office of School Counseling and Postsecondary Advising



Results

Since establishing greater support for students over the summer months, CPS has made great strides in increasing student success beyond high school graduation.

- Since 2017, CPS' college enrollment rate has risen by 6%, from 64% to 68% of graduates, a 36% increase from their 2006 enrollment rate of 50%.
- Within the first year that CPS began focusing on summer melt, their summer melt rate decreased by 20% and 1,000 additional students overcame obstacles to enroll in college the next fall.

“Our summer melt rate has continued to decrease as a result of the crucial support we put in place, including the strategic use of Naviance, school-based postsecondary teams and partners.”

Patrick Milton

Executive Director of the Office of School Counseling and Postsecondary Advising

and Postsecondary Advising. “Much of it has to do with the anxieties specific to the high school experience.” To support rising 9th graders, CPS established “Freshman Connection 8th – 9th Transition Program,” several years ago as an option for students to get academic counseling support during the summer months. It’s also an opportunity for students to get answers to any questions about the high school experience.

Transitioning from High School to College

While a majority of CPS students indicate their intent to enroll in college after graduation, many factors can derail that student from their plan. “Students encounter a range of barriers, including financial aid, housing, or finding transportation to actually get to their college campus,” said Milton. In order to provide support to students during critical summer months, Chicago Public Schools brings on summer transition counselors and college and career coaches.

Through Naviance, the counselors are able to identify which students might be at-risk for summer melt, a phenomenon where college intending students fail to matriculate, then reach out to the students and their families to offer extended transition support.

Transitioning from High School to Career

The district has also put in place supports for students transitioning directly to a career. “We want to make sure if they’re going into the workforce or a job training program that they are going to get the same level of support that our students who are applying to college are getting,” said Milton.

“To support students moving on to career after high school, we have built partnerships with organizations that have a strong sense of the necessary competencies to transition into the workforce,” said Milton. “We see workforce development through these partnerships as the equivalent to our summer transition counselors for students going on to college or university.”

Results

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Learn more about Naviance by Hobsons: naviance.com

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