Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion of MCPS African American and Latino Graduates

Kecia L. Addison, Ph.D.
Nyambura S. Maina, Ph.D.

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Impetus for Study

Research reveals that African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans in the US are less likely to attend postsecondary schools (NCES, 2008). Minority students often have to contend with multiple barriers to college access (e.g., negative perceptions of intellectual ability, inadequate school-based support).
Findings from the Literature Review

- Minorities are often placed in a position of subordination in the educational system (Ogbu, 1986).
- Protective factors such as self-esteem, motivation, supportive family members, and mentors are some of the resources that contribute to academic resilience (Cabrera & Padilla, 2004; Gonzalez & Padilla, 1997).
- While the percentage of Black and Hispanic students enrolled in college nationally has increase over the past 10 years, it still is disproportionately lower than for White students.

Studies in MCPS

- Two studies of postsecondary success of MCPS graduates conducted to date
  - Examined college enrollment, persistence, and degree attainment (2001 to 2010)
  - Examined graduates earning college degrees in STEM (2001 through 2006)
Data

- Use National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker database
  - Match to our student records
  - Data are not always up-to-date
  - Some colleges/universities do not participate

Theoretical Framework

- Hoover’s Vindicationist Philosophy (1990)
  - Black students are capable of academic achievement as any other student

- Harper’s Anti-Deficit Achievement Framework (2012)
  - Inverts questions that are commonly asked about educational disadvantage and the typical deficit perspective.
Purpose of the Study

By minimizing the attention on negative factors and following an anti-deficit approach, the study sought to highlight levels of college achievement of African American and Latino graduates from MCPS.

Method

• Data from the National Student Clearinghouse

• Sample consisted of 33,513 African American and Hispanic students; 23,964 records available in StudentTracker
Research Question 1

What proportion of African American and Hispanic MCPS graduates enroll in college?

Finding 1

- Overall 76% of the African American and 65% of the Hispanic graduates enrolled
- Compared with national trends, our enrollment rates are higher
- Among students enrolled in college, nearly all African American or Hispanic students who graduated in 2008 or later enrolled in college within one year after high school graduation
Research Question 2

Of those who graduate from college, how many earn a degree within six years?

Finding 2

• Altogether 17,484 African American and Hispanic students graduated from 2001 to 2006.
• A total of 30% or 3,837 of these students earned a bachelor’s degree or higher within 6 years after high school graduation
• One fourth of African American and one fifth of Hispanic graduates (2001 to 2006) who enrolled anytime after high school earned bachelor’s degree
Research Question 3

Of those who did not attain a bachelor’s degree or higher in six years (2001 to 2006 cohorts), what is their status?

Finding 3

• Close to one half of the 2001 to 2006 African American (48%) and Hispanic (45%) graduates who had not earned their bachelor’s degree within six years were reported to have graduated.

• Slightly over one third of African American (40%) and Latino (39%) graduates were still enrolled as full time students.
Research Question 4

Of those who are not yet eligible for graduate (2007 to 2010 cohorts), what is their enrollment status?

Finding 4

The Majority of the 2007 to 2010 African American (86%) and Latino (80%) students were enrolled as full time students as of May 2011
Future Research Considerations

• Investigate why higher proportions of Hispanic students enroll in two-year programs

• Explore additional data points (e.g., college transcripts, perceptual data)

• Examine course taking patterns (e.g., Honors and AP course enrollment)

Contact Information

Kecia L. Addison, Ph.D.
Kecia_L_Addison@mcpsmd.org