



6to16 Overview

The Need

The vast majority of urban public schools in the United States fail to provide students with the academic preparation and social support necessary for high school and college success. The national high school graduation rate of low-income children stands at 60% (Bedford et al. 2006). Only one-third enroll in college, with one in seven earning a bachelor's degree. In Chicago, only 8 percent of high school freshmen in 1995 graduated with a bachelor's degree 10 years later, according to a University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research 2006 study¹. Just 2.5 percent of African American and Latino boys who were high school freshmen in 1995 earned a college degree by their 25th birthday.

Given the level of knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in our economy and democracy, it is a national imperative to ensure that all students are college ready and college successful. To that end, the Urban Education Institute is launching **6to16** – a new classroom and online high school and college readiness intervention for grades 6 to grade '16' (the completion of undergraduate degree).

6to16 Overview

6to16 is designed to foster college access and success for a new generation of young people across the nation. 6to16 targets low-income African-American, Latino, and first-generation students whose access to social, economic, and cultural capital undermines their aspirations of attending four-year colleges.

The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute (UEI) developed 6to16 with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. 6to16 was piloted with over 400 students and more than 100 teachers and mentors in four Chicago Public Schools in 2009. The next phase of rollout will be to partner with a select number of districts and/CMO in the design and implementation of 6to16 in a second geography prior to a national rollout.

The 6to16 vision is college **graduation** for all students, and it seeks to vastly increase the number of low-income, first-generation students who are successful in high school, college, and beyond. 6 to 16 will provide 6-12th grade students, teachers, schools, and parents with a high school and college readiness solution that equips historically underserved students across the United States with the knowledge, beliefs, and skills to select, enter, and successfully graduate from college.



¹ From *High School to the Future: Potholes on the Road to College* (2008) Roderick, Nagaoka, Coca, and Moeller

6to16 Goals:

- Provide students with **early introduction** to high school & college awareness and planning (beginning in 6th grade)
- Increase student **efficacy** in **selecting and applying** to high schools and colleges that are “good fits” by providing new data and tools regarding high school and college options to students and families
- Enhance students’ **social capital** in support of high school and college attainment
- Foster **school-wide** and external ownership of **college-readiness agenda**
- Foster integrated **school-community partnerships**
- Augment **academic preparation** for high school and college

6to16 Program Components:

6to16 has two main components:

1. 6to16 Curriculum
Classroom and online college readiness curriculum for grades six through twelve.
2. 6to16 Collaboration Platform
Web-based social network and data management system that allows mentors, advisors, and peers to support and advise students as they build skills and complete key milestones.

6to16 Components

Lesson Plans and E-learning

ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS: By the end of 6th Grade Year: Students Will Understand:

BELEIEF

- It is essential that I graduate from college to live as an independent adult in today's society.
- College graduation is the expectation that I have for myself and a part of my life vision. I believe this is in my future and I am committed to this as my goal.
- College is accessible to everyone, regardless of family or neighborhood environment.
- I determine my reality and life path through my commitments and choices. This is more powerful than my circumstances.
- My thoughts and beliefs determine my life's outcomes.
- The decisions and actions I take today can and will determine my potential to successfully graduate from college.

PATH

- Where I go to high school can help determine my college options.
- There are over 150 high school options in Chicago, and my actions today determine which options I have available to me when I apply in 8th grade.
- Grades, strong scholarly practices, and leadership activities pave the road to getting into the best high school for me.
- My 7th grade performance will determine my high school options.

READINESS

- There is a certain set of academic skills that are keys to success in middle school, high school, college, career and life.
- In addition to my academic skills, I am aware of the professional, emotional and personal skills that I need to be successful.

Collaboration Platform

The screenshot displays the 6to16 Collaboration Platform interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'My Story', 'Friends', 'Networks', 'Messages', 'Search', and 'Logout'. Below this is a header for 'Tom Scott's Home Page' with a 'Connect to College and Beyond' button. The main content area is divided into 'ACTIVITIES' and 'College Support Team'. The 'ACTIVITIES' section shows a progress bar for 'My Story Grade 8 Challenge' and a list of tasks like 'Plan Activity Challenge' and 'Understanding GPA Learning'. The 'College Support Team' section features a circular network of user avatars and names, including Alex Williams, William Anderson, and others.

This screenshot shows a recommendation interface. At the top, there are four profile pictures of users. Below them is a 'Recommendation' section for a user named Marguerite. The text describes her as a confident and considerate person who helps others and offers new ideas. At the bottom, there is a rating system with five buttons: 'Excellent', 'Good', 'Fair', 'Poor', and 'Unacceptable'. To the right, there is a 'Please select a video below for expert advice' section with several video thumbnails and a 'Close' button.

6to16 Curriculum

The 6to16 curriculum has four key themes: Belief, Path, Readiness, and Connect.

6to16 Curriculum Foundations	
BELIEF	The student will have an informed belief in his/her ability to graduate from college. S/he will be committed to this vision.
PATH	The student will know the process for getting into and graduating from college and demonstrate that s/he is on that path.
READINESS	The student will know, develop, and demonstrate the skills and competencies for success in high school, college and beyond.
CONNECT	The student will exercise agency and ownership over his/her educational process and identify and access external resources to support his/her goals.

6to16 Collaboration Platform

The 6to16 collaboration platform allows administrators, teachers, parents, mentors and students to interact and coordinate services for students engaged in 6to16.

The 6to16 Collaborative Platform makes is possible to:

- Deliver college readiness tools and e-learning activities to students
- Assign in-school and out of school mentors to students for collaboration on essays, activities, and resources
- Provide anyone who teaches college readiness content with lesson plans and resources suited to their grade
- Monitor student progress

There are currently 26 unique e-learning activities and 15 high schools and college planning tools in 6to16. The examples shown (moving from upper left in a clockwise direction):

1. High School Navigator

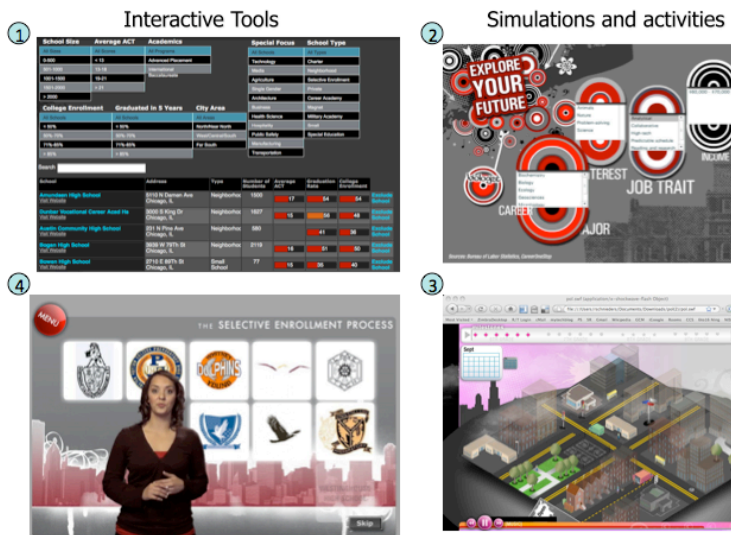
An online tool that allows parents and students to compare Chicago-area high schools on long-term success metrics such as college enrollment rates.

2. Explore Your Future

Allows students to find majors and careers which match their interests or to pick an income level they'd like to attain or other job features and find majors and jobs that correspond. In other words, they can "work the problem backward and forward."

3. SimU

Allows students to pick one of six characters and make key decisions for that character from 6th grade through the completion of college. As students play the game, their high scores are exported to the 6to16 platform for others to see, and they begin to internalize the key milestones required to successfully complete college.



4. Understanding the Selective Enrollment Process

a Chicago-specific tool that helps students learn about their high school options and uses the students grades, attendance, and other criteria to coach them regarding the selection and application process. This tool can be modified for other cities with high school choice to update both the content and formulas used and can be adapted to the college selection process.

The following is an example of how various roles utilize the collaborative platform.

- 7:30AM Teacher logs in to check the progress of her students and to access the lesson plan for today. She sends a message to encourage several students who have yet to complete the Personal Vision activity.
- 7:35AM A 7th grade student logs in to 6to16 and checks a message from her mentor who has commented on the results of the "Which Student to Admit to College" activity. The student responds that they only admitted 1 of the 4 students since they thought the essays and recommendation letters for several of the students in the activity were insufficient.
- 10:30AM Two classes at North Middle School are using 6to16. One teacher is projecting an e-learning activity to kick off a class discussion and writing assignment. Another teacher has reserved the lab and students are working on the "Day in the Life of a College Student" activity and corresponding with their College Support Team members.
- 5:30PM A mentor logs in to respond to a message from his mentee (student). He sees that the student has completed the College Savings Plan and updated her list of Fav 5 Colleges. The mentor asks her why she changed her #1 school, particularly since this is the mentor's alma mater.
- 8PM Mentee logs back in to access the Resource Network "Paying for College" and to update their College Avatar. She finds her mentor online and begins a chat on the Fav 5 College topic. "No offense on replacing your college, but I figured out that are lots of grant options out there, so I'm resetting my sights on a few colleges that I had ruled out....." Before turning in for the night, the student then continues work on the college savings plan activity that includes collaboration between the student, family members, and at least one mentor.

About UEI

6to16 was developed by The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute (UEI). UEI is dedicated to creating new knowledge and educational models to address one of the nation's most significant and enduring questions: how do we produce reliably excellent schooling for children growing up in urban America? UEI:

- Operates four charter school campuses designed to create a pathway to college success for students in grades pre-K-12. UEI also incubates and supports new Chicago public schools, sharing solutions and exemplary practices as school leaders and teachers learn together.
- Conducts research that improves children's lives. The Consortium on Chicago School Research is nationally recognized for its work that has informed public policy and changed practice while examining issues of significance to school improvement nationwide. The Committee on Education brings together distinguished faculty members who pursue questions of fundamental importance to education.

- Prepares and supports teachers and leaders for success in urban schools in Chicago and the rest of the nation. The Urban Teacher Education Program is a new model for teacher preparation creating the next generation of teachers and teacher leaders for the profession.
- Innovates and develops new tools and models to improve teaching and learning. Our solutions are based on deep analysis of real schools and collaboration with educators who work with students every day.

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For more information, contact 6to16@uei-schools.org or visit <http://uei.uchicago.edu/innovate.shtml#6to16>