In 2006, the Urban Education Institute’s Consortium on School Choice Research estimated that of 100 Chicago Public Schools freshmen, just 8 would earn a four-year college degree within 10 years of starting high school.

Now in 2014, the latest data show that this number has almost doubled to **14 of 100** freshmen earning a four-year college degree within 10 years of starting high school. An additional 3 of 100 freshmen earn their degrees through a longer, less straightforward path.

**The To&Through Project:** A three part release of research-based tools and data reports to focus Chicago and the nation on **what really matters for college success.**

**In 2006, those numbers were:**
- 29 will enroll in a four-year college
- 17 will earn a degree within six years
- 73 will graduate high school in four years

For more resources and updates, visit **toandthrough.uchicago.edu**

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### What matters for students and families?

#### 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Grade

- **Grades and Attendance:** Grades and attendance in the middle school years are more predictive of how students perform in high school than test scores or background characteristics like race or income (2014 Middle Grades Report)
- Students on pace for college get all As and Bs and have attendance rates of 97% or better in the middle grades (2014 Middle Grades Report)

#### 9th Grade

- **Freshman On-Track:** Students on-track at the end of 9th grade are five times more likely to graduate high school (2005 On-Track Report)
- Grades: More than 95% of students with a B average or better their freshman year graduate (2007 On-Track Report)
- Attendance: Nearly 90% of freshmen who miss less than a week of school per semester graduate, regardless of their 9th grade test scores (2007 On-Track Report)

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### What matters for schools?

#### 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th Grade

- **Grades and Attendance:** Grades and attendance in 8th grade are strongly associated with how students perform in high school—working to improve students’ GPAs and attendance during the middle grades has great potential for improving their high school outcomes (2014 Middle Grades Report)
- Additionally, schools with robust parental involvement and strong safety and order are much more likely than other schools to improve attendance (2010 Organizing Schools for Improvement Book)

#### 9th Grade

- **Monitoring and Support:** Students are more likely to be on track in schools with strong teacher-student relationships and where students see high school as relevant for their future (2007 What Matters)
- Grades: Students’ grades are stronger with teachers who monitor their performance and give support right away, when grades are at or above 70 (2004 Free to Fail or On-Track to College)
- Grades decline significantly when students transition to high schools in large part because students feel disengaged from school; many students with high potential coming into high school—high test scores and strong grades in 8th grade—fall off the path to college in the 9th grade year (2014 Free to Fail or On-Track to College Report)

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### College Application Process (11th – 12th Grade)

- **College Choice:** Students with the same qualifications upon leaving high school are much more likely to graduate if they attend a college with a high institutional graduation rate (2006 From High School to the Future Report)

- **ACT Prep:** Students accepted into a four-year college were 50% more likely to enroll if they completed their FAFSA (2008 Potholes Report)
- **College Match:** Students are more likely to enroll in colleges that match their qualifications when they attend high school with strong A/B grades (2008 Potholes Report)

**College Choice:** Students with the same qualifications upon leaving high school are much more likely to graduate if they attend a college with a high institutional graduation rate (2006 From High School to the Future Report)

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**College Choice:** Students with the same qualifications upon leaving high school are much more likely to graduate if they attend a college with a high institutional graduation rate (2006 From High School to the Future Report)