



# CONNECT TO COLLEGE & BEYOND

## What is 6to16?

6to16 consists of a college-readiness curriculum, a set of online learning experiences, and a web-based social network that give students the beliefs, knowledge, skills, and support to successfully complete high school and college. Beginning in the sixth grade, 6to16 provides support that continues through middle school, high school, and the four years of college (16th grade).

## Why 6to16?

The majority of our nation's public schools fail to prepare students from low-income families to succeed in college and life. Nearly half of the students who enter Chicago Public Schools (CPS) high schools, for example, do not graduate. 6to16 seeks to vastly increase the number of students who are successful in high school, college, and beyond. 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 to attend four-year colleges.

## Where is 6to16?

The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute (UEI) developed 6to16 with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. 6to16 was piloted with over 400 students in four Chicago public schools in 2009 and served over 1,300 students during the 2009–10 school year. Through partnerships with KIPP, the Woodlawn Children's Promise Zone, and the University of Chicago Charter School campuses, 6to16 will serve over 3,000 students in the 2010–11 school year.

## How is 6to16 implemented?

The 6to16 model consists of a college-readiness curriculum, which includes in-class lesson plans and online learning opportunities.

The power of 6to16 resides in the implementation of its **Theory of Action: Belief, Path, Readiness, Connect.**

### Belief

The student will have an informed belief in his/her ability to graduate from college. He/She will be committed to this vision.

### Path

The student will know the process for getting into and graduating from college and demonstrate that she/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 social capital to support his/her goals.



6to16 is administered through a combination of online and offline formats, and activities are both student- and teacher-led. The program capitalizes on the way students connect—digitally and personally—to each other, to schools, and to community organizations by leveraging social capital through personal student support networks. It does this by providing:

- **An early introduction to college readiness.** 6to16 begins high school and college planning with students as early as grade six, and supports students through college graduation or grade 16.
- **A middle and high school structured curriculum** and online tools. 6to16 equips districts, schools, and classroom teachers with a comprehensive 6th- to 12th-grade curriculum to deliver to students. The curriculum includes lessons that strengthen academic preparation and lead to efficacy in pursuing current and future educational goals. The curriculum includes a suggested set of “core” lesson plans per grade level and extensive supplemental lessons. Lessons/units span one to three 45-minute class sessions and typically are taught as part of a graded course purposed for college readiness. 6to16’s online platform provides access to information and tools that help determine which high schools and colleges are the “right fit” for an individual student’s potential.
- **Online social learning communities** focused on college readiness. 6to16 harnesses the power of social networking technology to place students in online college-readiness communities to support student success. 6to16 enables students, and the adults who work with them, to interact through a web-based portal featuring real-time interactivity, college selection-focused exercises, and a wide range of multimedia tools to guide, map, and celebrate student progress.

## About the Urban Education Institute

The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute (UEI) was established to create knowledge to improve the trajectory of children’s lives nationwide. UEI directly operates four charter school campuses, prepares teachers and leaders for success in an urban environment through its Urban Teacher Education Program, and conducts research that is connected to problems of practice in schools through the Consortium on Chicago School Research. Through this ground-level engagement and by sharing new knowledge and models with national implications, UEI can dramatically improve the outcomes of urban students on a national scale. 6to16 is an essential component in reaching UEI’s goal. For more information, visit [uei.uchicago.edu](http://uei.uchicago.edu).

### What are people saying about 6to16?

“I’ve been in the counseling world for three decades and wondered what 6to16 could possibly teach me. Now I see.”

—6to16 Counselor

“6to16 saved my life. I taught my students about GPA the day after I heard about 6to16.”

—6to16 Teacher

“The class gave me the encouragement I needed to do what’s important to get into a good high school, and going to a good high school helps you get into a good college.”

—6to16 Middle School Student

## Contact

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