

Bridge Plan for Academic Validation

Update for State Board of Education





Overview of Presentation

Bridge Plan for Academic Validation

- **Personalized instruction**
 - Know seniors well
 - Address needs of special populations
- **Excellent instructional tools**
 - Individualized, Rigorous, and Fair
- **Scoring results to-date**
- **Best practices viewed across the state regarding the instruction of students completing Bridge Plan projects.**
 - Baltimore City Video/Charles County Panel



Personalize the senior year

- Our schools **KNOW** their Bridge Plan students.
- The HSA graduation requirement ensures that no senior can be “anonymous” in Maryland.
- Individual, personal attention to those seniors *most in need*—those who have not yet demonstrated mastery of content and skills Maryland requires to earn a diploma.
- Focus on special populations
 - Students with IEP’s
 - English Language Learners

Video



Individualized Instruction

- **Bridge projects are excellent, hands-on instructional tools**
- **Teachers across the state use bridge projects as models to develop high quality instructional materials that target the Core Learning Goals.**

Individualized Instruction

- **Project monitors are uniform in their praise:**
 - “Can we use the projects in our classes during the year?”
 - “For the first time in my career, ‘teaching to the test’ makes me a better teacher”
 - ”Classes run for project monitors working with the bridge projects are the best professional development sessions I have ever attended.”
- **Student voices:**
 - “I can work at my own pace and get help from my teacher if I get stuck on part of the project.”
 - “I like the projects because I can keep my dictionary by my side”(From an ELL student)

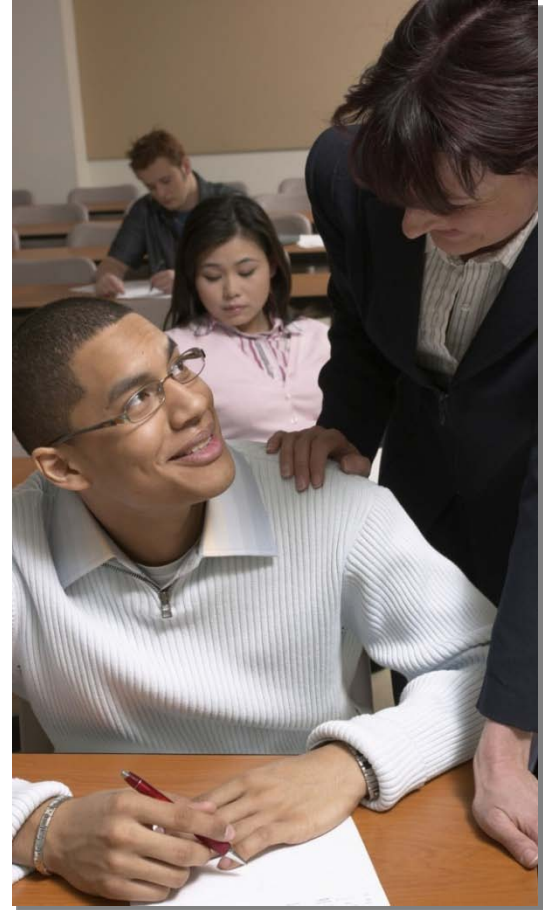


Student Products

- **Research projects**
- **Lab reports**
- **Statistical analyses**
- **Analytical essays**
- **Letters to decision makers**
- **Creative displays/brochures**
- **Powerpoint presentations**

Individualized Instruction

The critical importance of
RELATIONSHIPS



Video



Rigor and Fairness

■ Project Development Process

- Mirrors development of HSA items
 - Involves master teachers and graduates of the Governor's Academies
 - Bias/Sensitivity controls

■ Scoring Center Operation and Feedback

- Scorers must be content certified
- Scoring center training required
- State audits take place each term

Year-To-Date Data

■ Algebra Projects	448 Passed	198 Returned
■ Biology Projects	198 Passed	66 Returned
■ English Projects	347 Passed	159 Returned
■ Gov't Projects	146 Passed	120 Returned
■ Totals	1139 Passed	543 Returned

Most students focused on HSA review classes till October and took the HSA exam at that time

Year-To-Date Data

- Year-to-date, local scoring panels have approved **68%** of projects completed by students.
- Results for special education and ELL students mirror results for all students.

Early “Lessons Learned” from Bridge Plan Implementation

- Success in implementing the Bridge Plan for Academic Validation relies on two things:
 - Students must work **HARD** to demonstrate mastery of content on projects.
 - Schools must provide quality, **INDIVIDUALIZED** instruction to ensure that students who want to earn a diploma do so.
- Superintendents have expressed to us that the HSA graduation requirement, including the Bridge Plan, provides them a great opportunity to improve the quality of instruction in their district.