



Study finds PGC improves graduation rates among Latino males by 18 percentage points

Results of a four-year, randomized control trial of CSS's Peer Group Connection (PGC) high school transition program indicate that PGC can be, "instrumental in providing resources to enable Latino males to succeed in high school."

The study, conducted by researchers at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, included 268 ninth grade students from a low-income, mid-Atlantic, urban high school, and was published in November in [*The Journal of Educational Research*](#). The vast majority of participants (92%) were Hispanic/Latino.

Results indicate that males in the program group graduated at a rate that was **18 percentage points higher** than that control group (81% vs. 63%). This finding for male students is particularly noteworthy given that across the United States, *fewer than half of the Latino males* who enter ninth grade will graduate from high school.

In addition, the study found that males who exhibited a *low probability for graduating* at the outset of the study, but participated in PGC, had double the chance of graduating (60%) compared to their control group counterparts (30%). Consistent with this finding, males who exhibited a *high probability for graduating* at baseline, but did not receive PGC, failed to graduate at a higher rate (22%) than males in the PGC group (9%).

Dr. David DuBois, professor in the Division of Community Health Sciences within the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago and nationally-recognized expert on mentoring calls the study, "some of the most compelling evidence I've seen for effects of mentoring on high school graduation."

According to the study authors, these results suggest that PGC is improving graduation rates for males at high risk for dropout. Moreover, PGC was effective in helping those with a baseline potential for finishing high school obtain that goal. Findings also suggest that there are distinct benefits to providing high school transition support to all incoming ninth grade students, not just those who are seemingly most at-risk for dropping out of school.

In honor of National Mentoring Month in January, CSS will present these findings and showcase PGC at a special event being held at **Union City High School in Union City, New Jersey on Wednesday, January 22**. Participants will also hear from a panel of Union City's incredible students, administrators, and faculty who will share their personal experiences in the program and the impact it has had on them and their school community. For more information about the event, please contact Dr. Chavonne Lenoir Perotte, Executive Director for New Jersey, at cperotte@supportiveschools.org.

For more information about the study or to learn more about PGC, please contact Dr. Sherry Barr, Vice President, at sbarr@supportiveschools.org.