



# How School Choice is Related to College and Career Readiness and Early College Success in Indiana

Indiana has a robust portfolio of high school options, including traditional public schools, charter schools, and private schools that accept Indiana Choice Scholarships (private voucher schools). The Indiana Department of Education partnered with Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Midwest to identify relationships between types of high school enrollment and indicators of college and career readiness and early college success after adjusting for student and high school background characteristics. This study examined Indiana students who were in grade 9 between 2010/11 and 2013/14 and on track to begin college between 2014/15 and 2017/18.

## Indiana high school enrollment types



**Student in a traditional public school.** A student who attends a school accredited by the state board of education; run by a school district; governed by a school board; and follows local, state, and federal regulations.



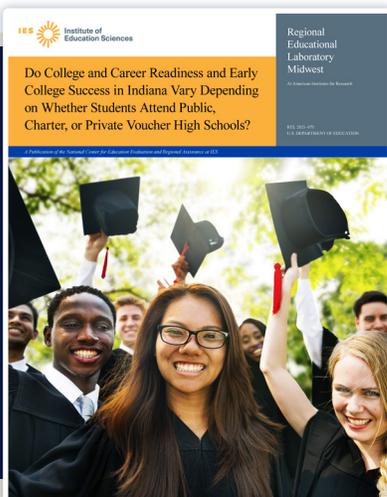
**Charter school student.** A student who attends a public school held to accountability standards through its operating charter, as approved by a charter authorizer.



**Voucher recipient.** A student who attends a private voucher school and receives a voucher through the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program to apply to the cost of tuition.



**Nonvoucher student.** A student who attends a private voucher school and does not receive a voucher.



For more information about this study, see the full report:

<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?projectID=4609>

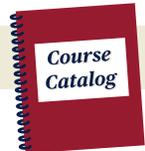
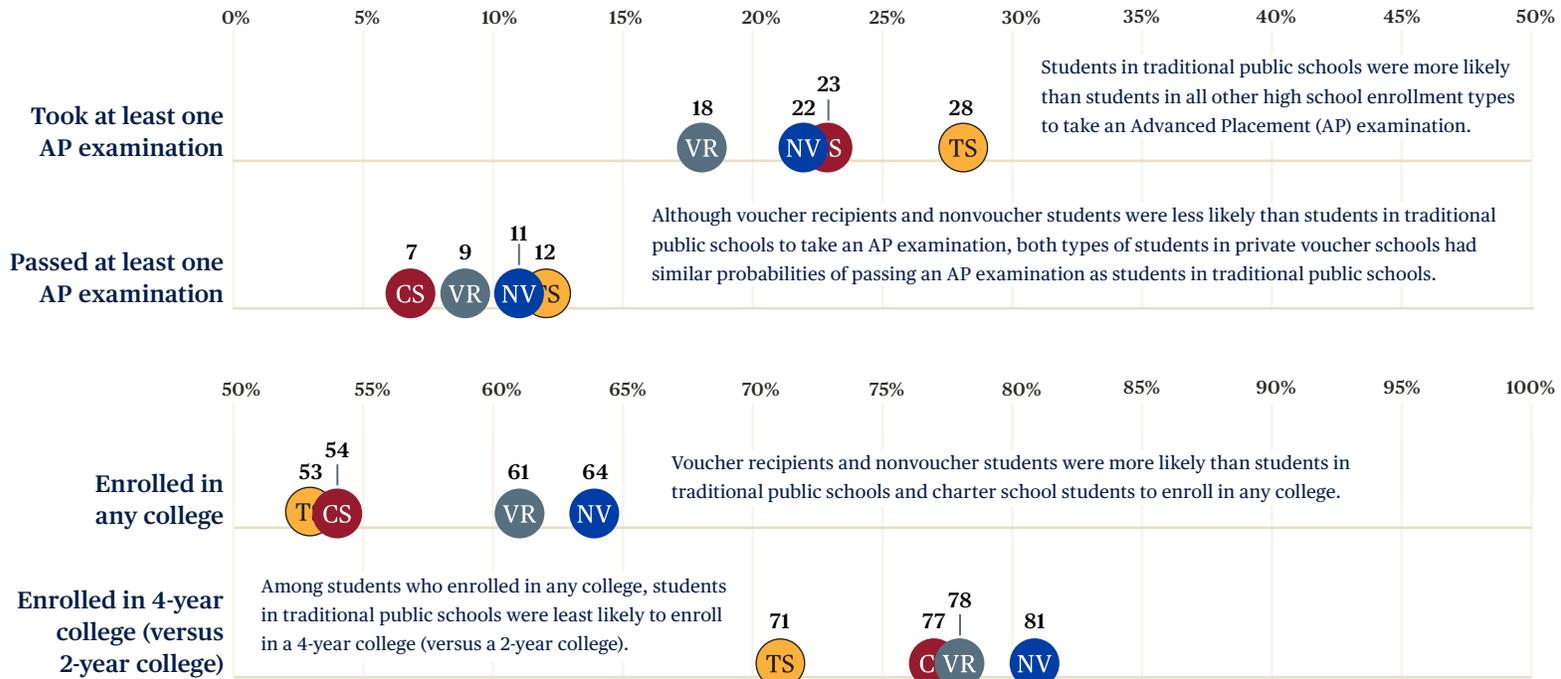
Austin, M., & Pardo, M. (2021). *Do college and career readiness and early college success in Indiana vary depending on whether students attend public, charter, or private voucher high schools?* (REL 2021-071). U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Midwest.

The study was designed to identify relationships between types of high school enrollment and student outcomes after adjusting for student and high school background characteristics, but not to establish causality.

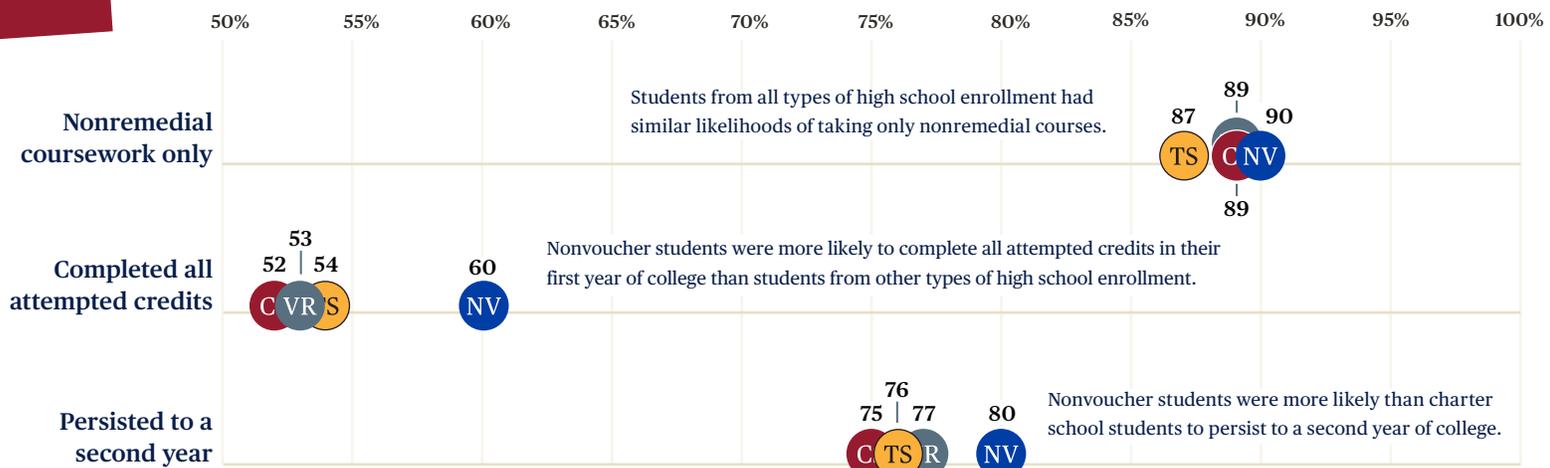
TS Students in traditional public schools  
 CS Charter school students  
 VR Voucher recipients  
 NV Nonvoucher students

Accepted

## College and career readiness



## Early college success



## Key takeaways

- If future research finds that the differences in college and career readiness and early college success outcomes are caused by students' type of high school enrollment, further research could provide insights into the policies, practices, or resources that might account for different outcomes.
- Although the findings in this study are not causal, school leaders still might use them to identify which college and career readiness and early college success outcomes to target for improvement in their type of high school.