

Early Warning System (EWS) v2.0 Webinar

October 19, 2010

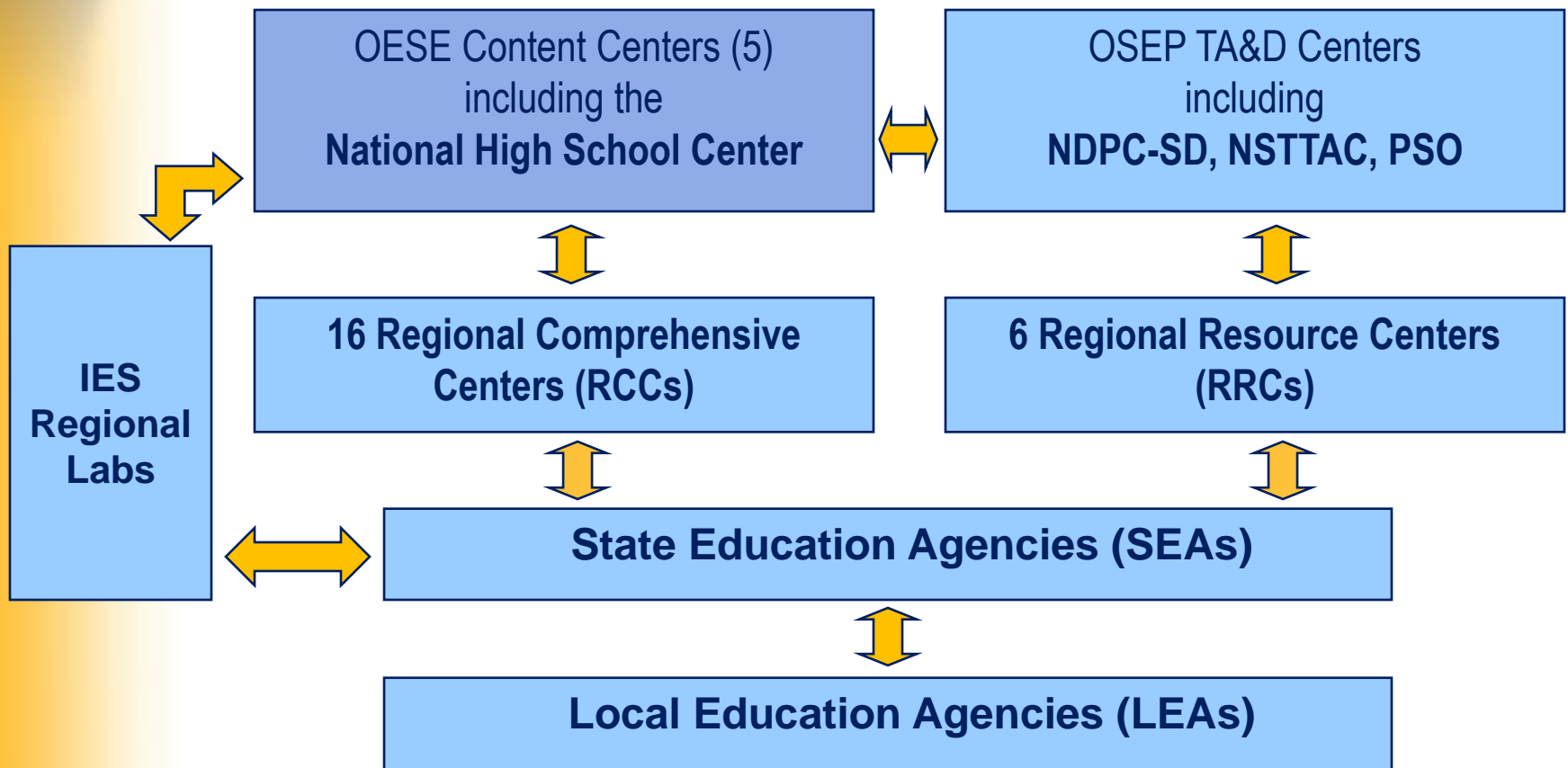
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT

Presenters

Joseph R. Harris, Director, National High School Center

Early Warning System Team: Jessica Heppen, Mindee O’Cummings,
Susan Bowles Therriault, Lindsay Fryer, Amy Johnson

Network of Regional Comprehensive Centers & Content Centers



Agenda

- Early Warning Systems Background and Research Base
- EWS Tool v2.0 Demonstration
- Questions and Discussion
- Closing Remarks

Early Warning Systems

Early warning systems (EWS) rely on readily available data housed at the school to:

- Predict which students are at-risk for dropping out of high school
- Target resources to support off-track students while they are still in school, before they drop out
- Examine patterns and identify school climate issues

9th Grade is a Critical Year

- Ninth grade is a “make or break year”
 - More students fail 9th grade than any other high school grade
 - A disproportionate number of students who are held back in 9th grade subsequently drop out
- Monitoring students’ progress throughout 9th grade—and even during the first grading period—provides powerful indicators that can predict whether students will complete high school:
 - Engagement
 - Course performance
 - Chicago’s “On-Track” Indicator (CCSR End-of-Year)

Key Indicators

Engagement

- Attendance/absenteeism

Course Performance

- Course grades
- Number of credits earned

CCSR End of Year Indicator

- Core course performance & accumulated credits

Research from several U.S. school districts provides a strong foundation for defining 9th grade warning signs that students might drop out, but local adaptation is key.

“High Yield” 9th Grade Indicators

Indicators	Benchmark (flagged)
Absenteeism	Missing 10% or more of instructional time
Course failures	One or more failed courses
Grade point average	2.0 or lower (on a 4-point scale)
CCSR End-of-Year Indicator	Fail two or more semester core courses, or accumulate fewer credits than the number required for promotion to the 10th grade

Based on this research, the National High School Center developed the first version of an Excel-based EWS Tool (v1.0), released in July 2008.

- Designed to predict which students are at-risk for dropping out of high school, based on attendance and course performance data entered for ninth-graders.
- Shows which students are flagged (for any indicator), as well as the specific indicators on which they are flagged.
- Intended to provide a starting point for schools and districts interested in establishing an early warning system.

EWS Tool Development

Since the development of v1.0, we have done the following:

- Customized the tool for two states, including adding indicators (e.g., middle school indicators) and reporting features.
- Trained users at the state, district, and school levels to use customized versions of the tool (including approximately 19 districts and 30 schools).
- Collaborated with CCSR on a study validating the indicators for students with disabilities (Gwynne, Lesnick, Hart & Allensworth, 2009).

Based on this work over the past two years, we conceptualized the enhanced EWS Tool v2.0. This version has new features including the capability to:

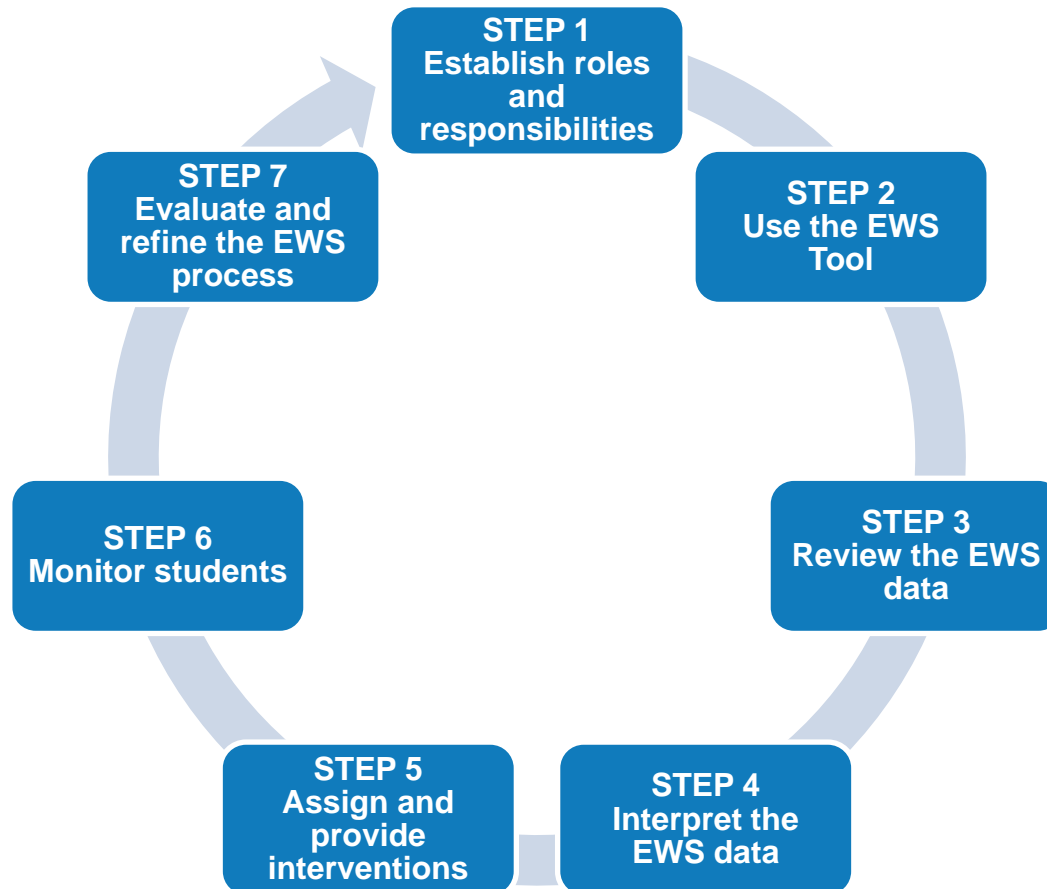
- Import data
- Accommodate local contextual factors for high schools
- Include locally-defined pre-high school risk indicators (based on student data from middle school)
- Modify the benchmarks/thresholds based on analysis of longitudinal data (i.e., indicator validation)

New features, continued:

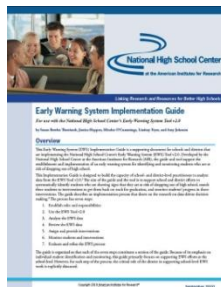
- House an inventory of dropout prevention interventions
- Assign students to intervention programs and monitor student response and progress in the interventions over the course of the school year
- Create pre-set school-level summary reports, detailed student-level reports, and individual student reports
- Create customized student-level reports

EWS Tool v2.0

The EWS Tool v2.0 is expressly designed to support users through a seven-step implementation process:

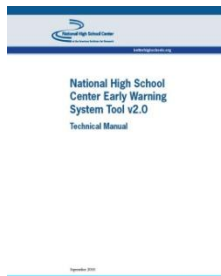


Accompanying materials include:



Early Warning System Implementation Guide

- Walks users through the seven-step implementation process with guidance along the way and provides both short- and longer-term strategy questions for each step



National High School Center Early Warning System Tool v2.0 Technical Manual

- Guides users through the features and functionality of the tool

EWS Tool v2.0 Demonstration

Closing Remarks

Have a question about EWS? Email us at
ews@betterhighschools.org

For more information on the National High School Center, please visit us online at
www.betterhighschools.org



Follow us on Twitter [@NHSCatAIR](https://twitter.com/NHSCatAIR)

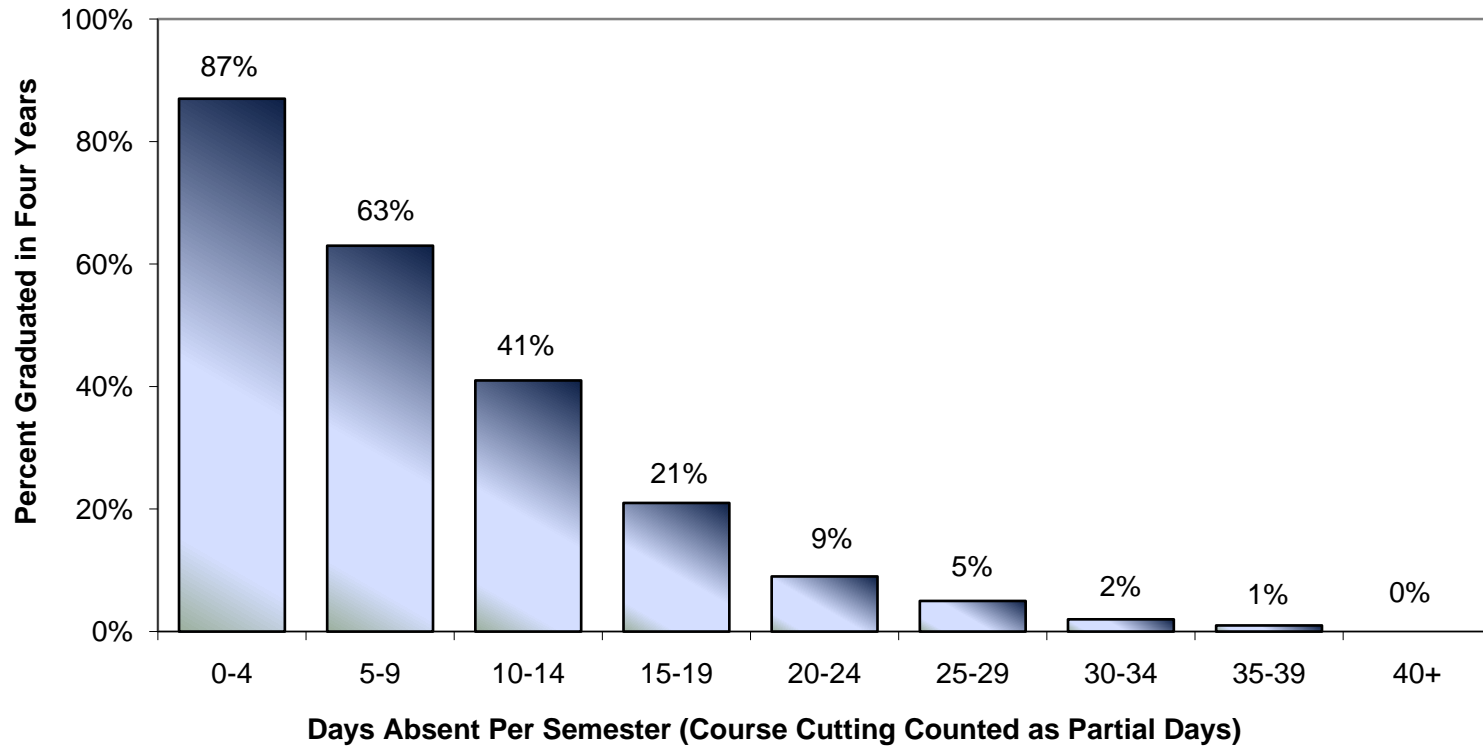


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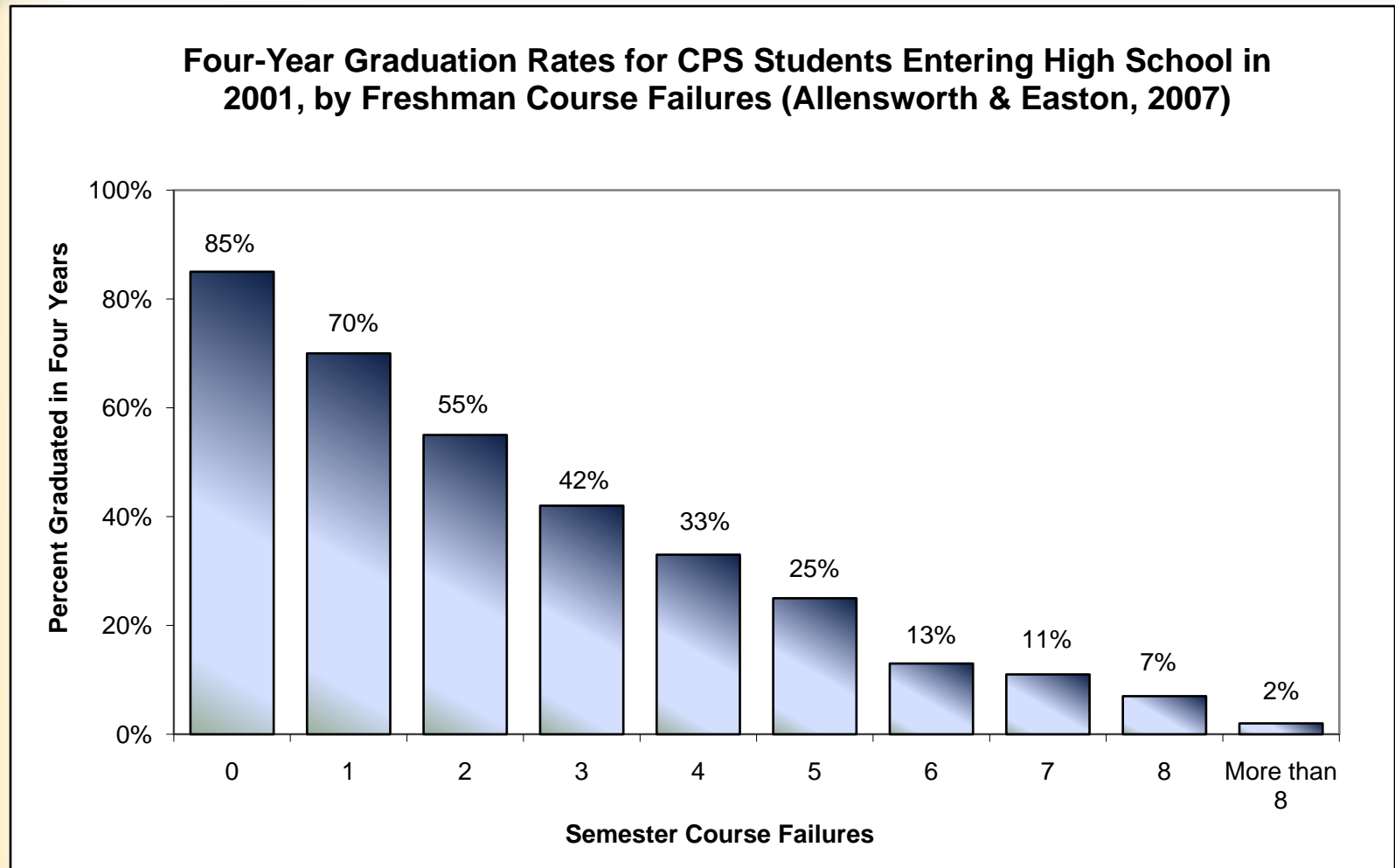
Additional Information

“High-Yield” Academic Indicators: Attendance

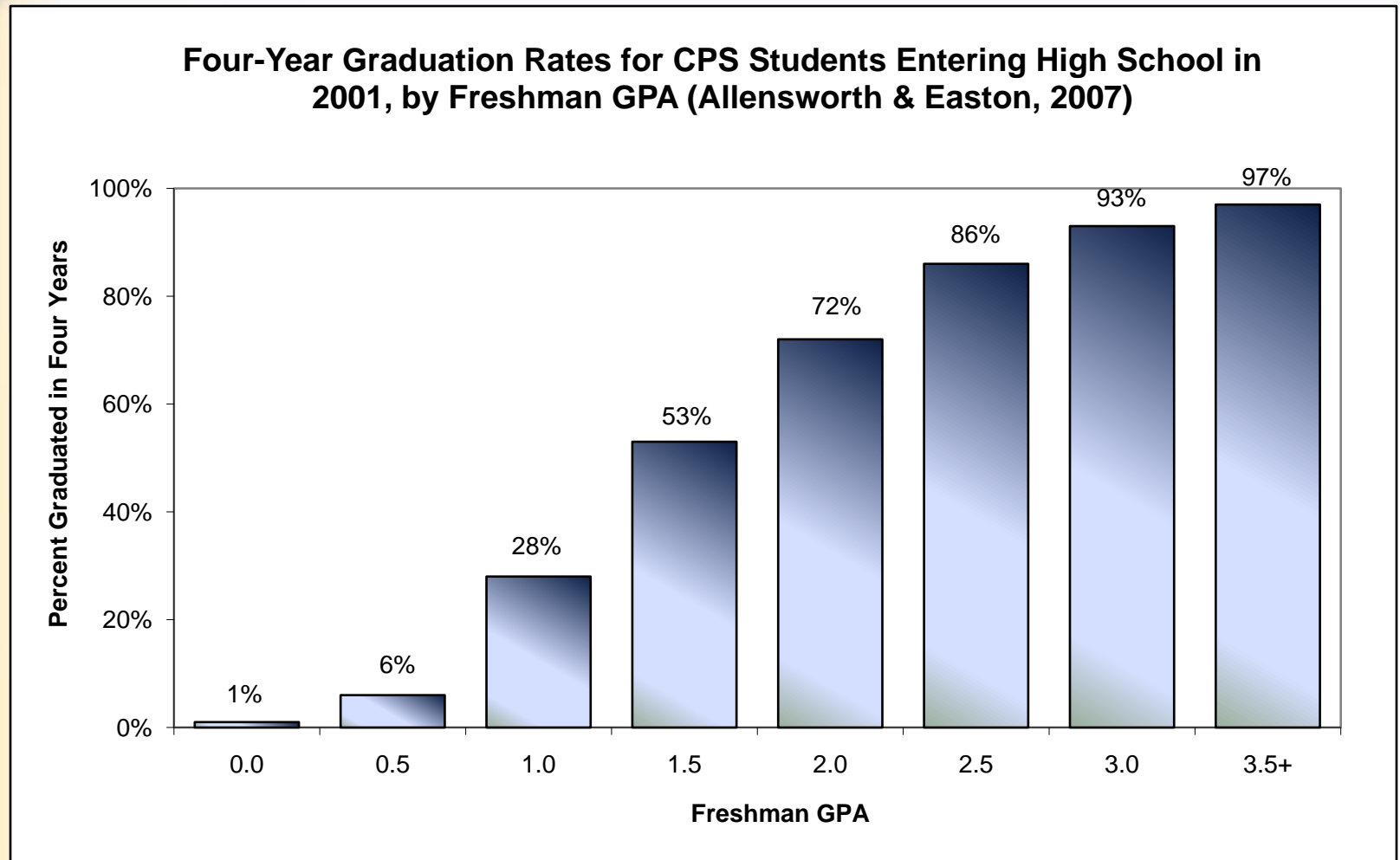
Four-Year Graduation Rates for CPS Students Entering High School in 2001, by 9th Grade Absences (Allensworth & Easton, 2007)



“High-Yield” Academic Indicators: Course Failures



“High-Yield” Academic Indicators: GPA



Chicago's "On-track" Indicator

Students are "on-track" if they:

1. Have not failed more than one semester long core course, AND
2. Have accumulated enough credits for promotion to the 10th grade.

Number of Semesters with Fs in Core Courses	# of Credits Accumulated Freshman Year	
	Less than 5	5 or more
2 or more courses	Off-track	Off-track
0 or 1 courses	Off-track	On-track

Risk Indicators in the EWS Tool v2.0

Risk Indicator	Timeframe	Risk Indicator Threshold (Flagged)
Pre–High School Indicators	Prior to the start of school	Exhibited locally validated indicators of risk
Attendance	First 20 (or 30) days, end of each grading period, end of year	Missed 10% or more of instructional time (absences)
Course Failures	End of each grading period, end of year	Failed one or more semester courses (any subject)
GPA	End of each grading period, end of year	Achieved 2.0 or lower (on a 4-point scale)
CCSR End of Year (On-track) Indicator	End of year	Failed two or more semester core courses, or accumulated fewer credits than the number required for promotion to the next grade