

During the summer and fall of 2014, the Waipahu High School Early College program collaborated with the University of Hawaii to offer an online program, EdReady, with the goal of increasing the number of their high school students who could score well enough on the COMPASS placement exam to qualify for enrollment in college-level, dual-credit math courses.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

The Waipahu High School Early College program allows students to save time and money by taking courses for college credit while still enrolled in high school.

U.S. students in the Waipahu program come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, primarily Filipino, but also including Samoan, part-Hawaiian, and other ethnicities, with more than 68% non-native English speakers. Waipahu students take college classes on their high school campus after school. In 2013-2014, the school offered 24 college classes with 328 students earning college credits.

IMPLEMENTATION

In the summer of 2014, Waipahu piloted EdReady with 18 students who were interested in improving their COMPASS test scores. Waipahu implemented EdReady as a three-week, self-paced, independent study option. The students were challenged to reach an EdReady target score of 100 (out of 100).

The summer pilot students showed “astounding progress and results,” according to Mark Silliman, the Waipahu Early College Program Director. So starting in the fall of 2014, he expanded the program and gave the students a new challenge. Those students who wanted to register for any dual-credit college-level course (in math or another subject) had to either log 20 hours of time in EdReady, or reach an EdReady target score of 85 (out of 100). Students who met either of those benchmarks literally earned a seat on the bus that transports students from Waipahu High School to Leeward Community College to sit for the COMPASS placement exam.



DETAILS

WHO WAS SERVED: High school students

WHEN: Summer (3 weeks) and fall (9 weeks) 2014

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 18 (summer) and 94 (fall); total 112 students

IMPLEMENTATION: Independent study within a high school early college program

RESULTS: For the summer students, 66.6% of participating students who took the COMPASS exam at the end of the program earned scores that placed them into college-level math. For the fall group, 65.8% of students who took the COMPASS exam placed into college-level math.

INSTRUCTIONAL APPLICATION: COMPASS Exam Placement Prep for secondary students who wish to take dual-credit (high school and college) math courses

“In Early College programs,” explains Silliman, “the focus is trying to accelerate learning, and encouraging students who are willing to put the time and effort into it without holding them back.” Regarding the 20-hour or 85-score requirement, he noted, “I was a little bit heavy handed, and I thought it could be disastrous if half my cohort decided not to do it.” But most of the students took on the challenge. Each student who chose to participate was responsible for working through his or her unique EdReady study plan independently, outside of the regular school day, over a nine-week period. Waipahu had a computer lab available to students to ensure they had internet access.

“I took one of my 9th graders up to the Leeward Community College Testing Center, and upon completing the test, he came bouncing out of the center with this big grin from ear to ear, and I knew instantly that he was satisfied with his test result.”

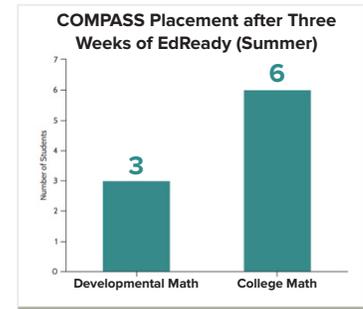
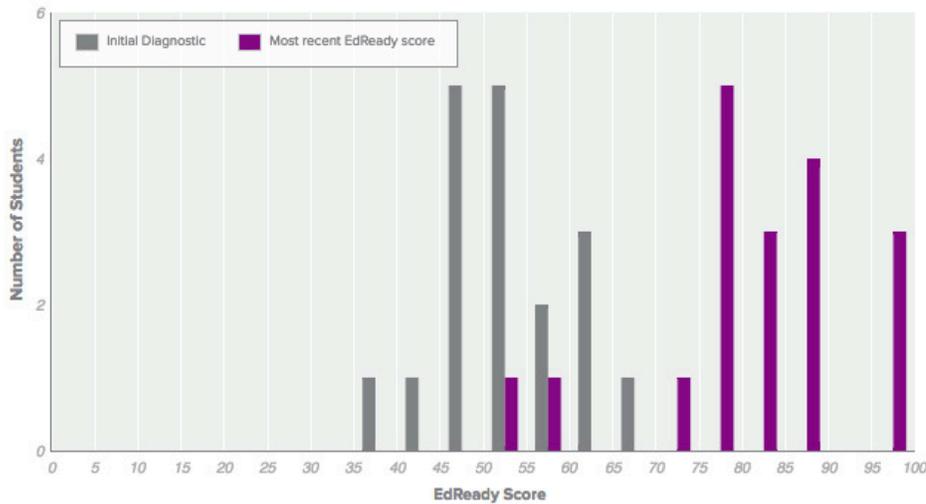
—Mark Silliman, Waipahu High School Early College Program Director



RESULTS

SUMMER: The 18 students who completed the EdReady diagnostic gained between 1 and 39 points (out of 100) within EdReady during the three weeks of the pilot, with an average gain of 28.2 points.

Score Distribution ?

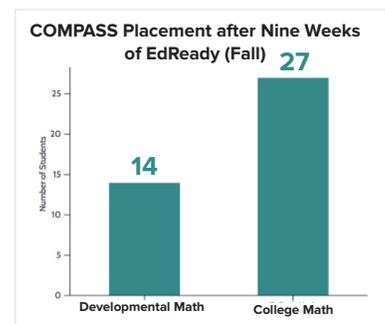
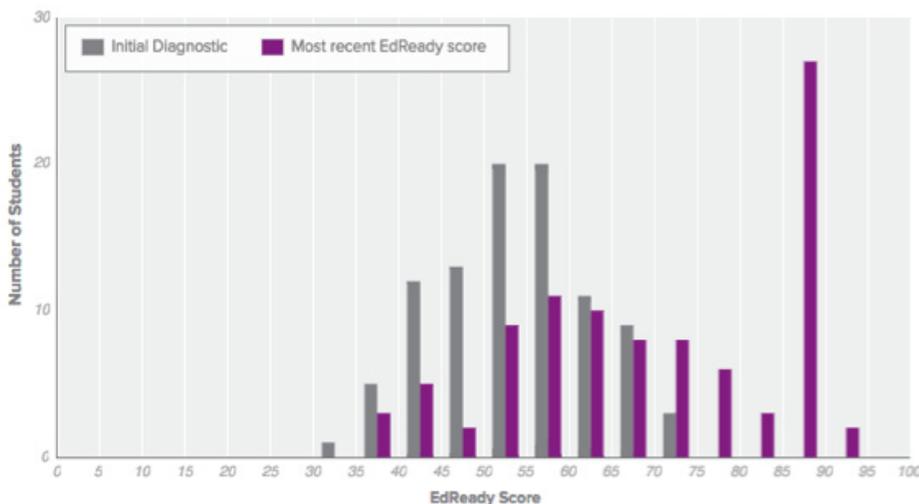


After completing the EdReady pilot, nine of the 18 students sat for the COMPASS exam. Three (33.3%) placed into developmental math, while six (66.6%) placed into college-level math.

FIGURES 1 & 2: Waipahu Early College Student Score Distribution in EdReady, Summer 2014

FALL: When Waipahu expanded the program at the beginning of the school year, 94 students completed the EdReady initial diagnostic, and 74 of those (78.7%) increased their EdReady scores over the nine-week pilot, gaining an average of 19.9 points on a 100-point scale.

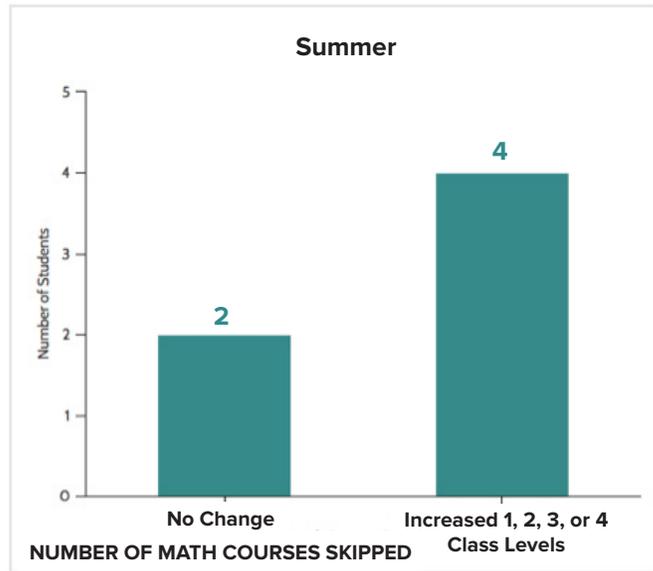
Score Distribution ?



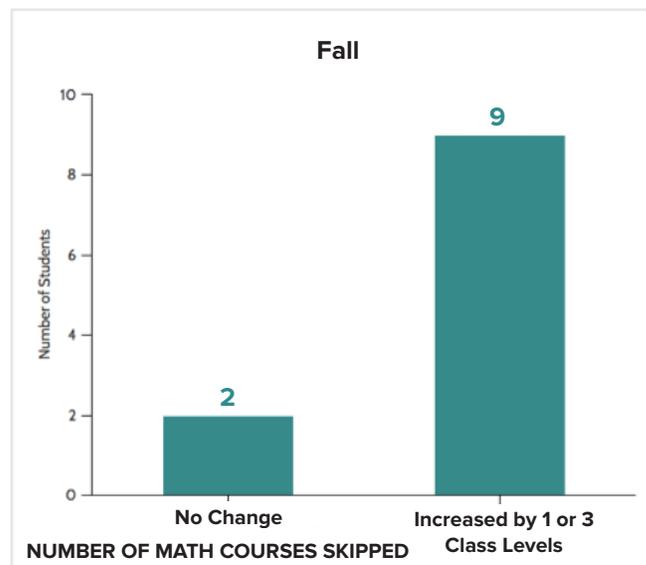
After the fall EdReady implementation, 41 of the 94 Waipahu students sat for the COMPASS exam. Fourteen (34.1%) placed into developmental math and 27 (65.8%) placed into college-level math.

FIGURES 3 & 4: Waipahu Early College Student Score Distribution in EdReady, Fall 2014

A small subset of both the summer and the fall students who took the COMPASS exam after using EdReady had also taken the COMPASS exam prior to using EdReady. Six of the summer students had before and after COMPASS scores. After EdReady, one student increased by four math class levels compared to his previous COMPASS score; one student increased by three levels; one student increased by two levels; and one student increased by one level. Two students saw no change.



Eleven of the fall students had before and after COMPASS scores. After EdReady, four students increased by three math class levels compared to their previous COMPASS scores; five students increased by one level; two students saw no change.



FIGURES 5 & 6: Change in Class Placement Based on New COMPASS Score After Using EdReady

The Waipahu math students who took the COMPASS exam after participating in the EdReady pilot showed a significant increase in math readiness compared to the Waipahu math students from the year before, who did not participate in EdReady. In the previous year, 55% were placed in developmental math and only 45% were placed in college-level math. After participating in the EdReady pilot and taking the COMPASS exam, 36% were placed in developmental math and 64% were placed in college-level math (n=50).

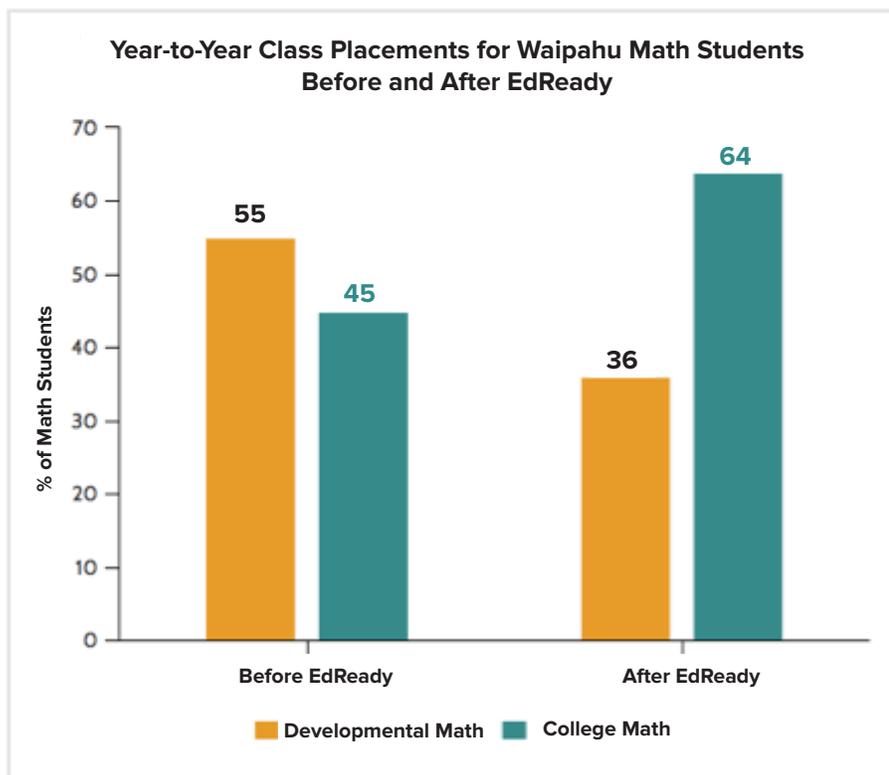


FIGURE 7: Waipahu Early College Students Year-to-Year Math Class Placement, Before and After EdReady

Silliman said he was motivated to continue using EdReady for all students entering the Waipahu Early College program for two reasons. One is the need for a solution that both motivates students and is effective. The second reason is that EdReady provides accelerated learning opportunities that target first-generation, low-income students who have knowledge gaps. “We would do a gross disservice if we were to throw these somewhat fragile and at risk-students into a college class ill-prepared in terms of readiness...When we are looking at the EdReady data in practical terms, this really works. It helps improve students’ readiness to place higher on the exam.”

He further remarked that, “systemic adoption and implementation of EdReady has been a smart approach to addressing remedial issues, as well as an effective tool for ACT, SAT and college placement exam prep.”

When asked whether he would recommend EdReady to other high schools, he responded, “Absolutely!”

For questions on this pilot, please contact:

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**If a student scores 100 points, he or she has achieved 100% mastery of all of the content in the curriculum for his or her class.*