



Research *Evaluation* *Strategy*

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Case Study

Structuring an Early College High School Program

As the recipient of a multi-component grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rochester City School District (RCSD) focused a portion of its energy on planning for an Early College High School (ECHS) Program. The State University of New York at Brockport (SUNY Brockport) was one of six postsecondary institutions in the Rochester area asked to offer non-competitive proposals for an ECHS. To provide an objective basis for its decision-making, SUNY Brockport asked Hezel Associates to carry out a feasibility analysis that addressed (a) whether it made sense for SUNY Brockport to be engaged in such an undertaking, and (b) if it did make sense, how to best structure the partnership, from SUNY Brockport's point of view. As it conducted the feasibility analysis, Hezel Associates integrated data obtained through financial analyses, in-depth interviews with key stakeholder groups, site visits to other Early College High School programs, and a literature review of other, successful high school reform programs. Based on the analysis, Hezel Associates created several scenarios for SUNY Brockport to consider, and helped the institution fashion an initial design for an Early College High School program.