Influence of Success Bound on Students and Schools

In May 2020, the American Institutes for Research conducted interviews with a sample of 27 school counselors, principals, and teachers in 18 schools in Chicago Public Schools. During interviews, AIR asked school leaders and staff about any changes that they observed in (1) student knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors and (2) the school culture as a result of their implementation of Success Bound.

**Influence on Students**

**STUDENTS TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THEIR EDUCATION**
School staff said that Success Bound taught students to use data to monitor and evaluate their progress towards their academic goals. Staff also said that Success Bound motivated students to set goals for themselves and create action plans. They also believed that as a result of Success Bound, students were more aware of what it means to be successful, which helped students understand why learning matters to them.

“They are able to see a connection between what they’re doing now and how it’s going to affect them in the future… Just giving them the opportunity…they’re eye-opening events for them. It changes the way kids think about their future in terms of education and life.”

**STUDENTS KNOW HOW TO APPLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL**
Staff believed that students were more knowledgeable about the high school application process and what they need to do to succeed in high school because of Success Bound.

“I have been receiving emails about the high school application process… students are feeling a greater sense of agency over the control of that transition…they feel that agency because they have more information.”

**STUDENTS CAN IDENTIFY PATHWAYS TO POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS**
School staff explained that Success Bound encouraged students to learn about educational and professional opportunities that meet their interests and to understand what education or training is required for that career.

“Success Bound plays a great role in students being able to make the connection of that they should be thinking about high school and college while in middle school… it definitely makes it clear for that it’s not too early for them to try to think about these things.”

**STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IMPROVED SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS**
School staff said that Success Bound helped students to develop social and emotional skills, such as self-awareness, self-confidence, self-advocacy, social skills.

“We do the personality activity where they find out what their personality… I think that’s an eye opener for them. So, just making them aware of how they work. I think Success Bound is good with that.”
Influence on Schools

**SCHOOLS HAVE A CULTURE OF HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND CAREER READINESS**
Staff explained that Success Bound encouraged teachers to discuss high school, college, and career readiness with students to connect their learning to future professional endeavors.

> “Teachers feel empowered to do a little bit of research so that they could share with the students versus saying, ‘Just go talk to your counselor.’ Or even share about their high school experience, or what college they went to, or why they chose to be a teacher.”

**SCHOOLS FOCUS ON DATA**
School staff said that they attributed a shift in the way that their school uses data to Success Bound. For example, they said that their school was more adept at using data to make decisions about individual students.

> “We’re trying to prove ourselves as being comprehensive and proactive and data driven and Success Bound allows for that because we’re looking at on track data, which is in alignment with Chicago Public schools.”