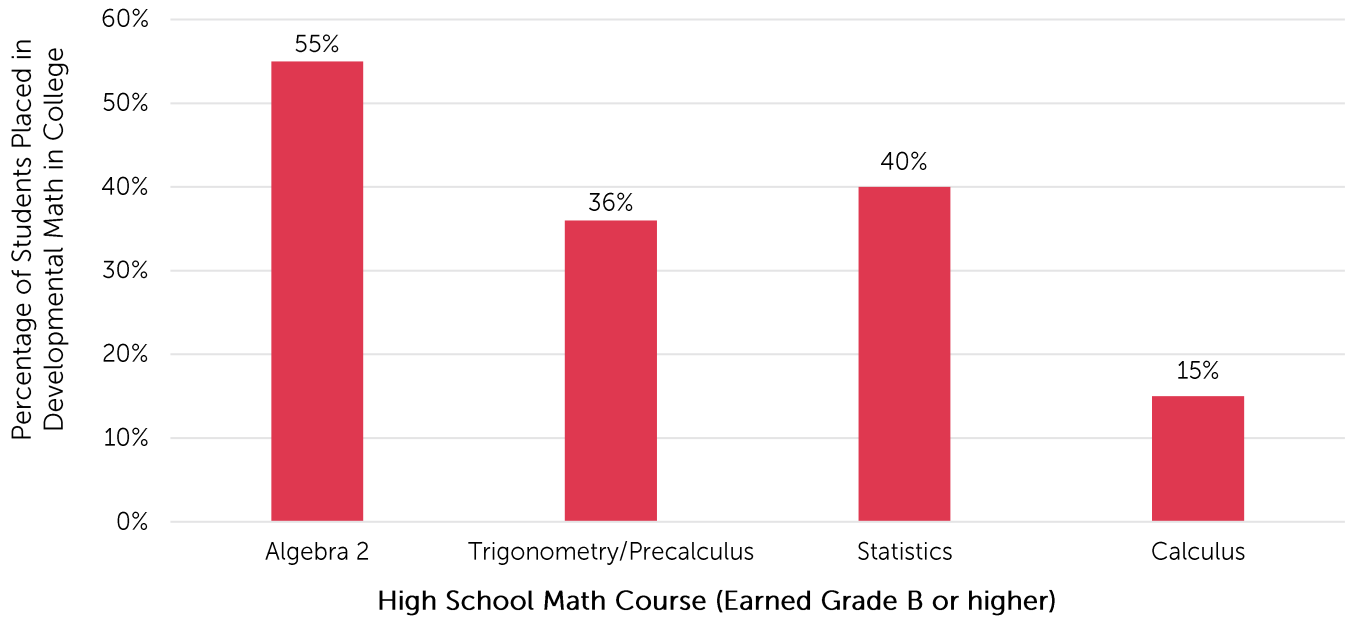


Students Over Placed in Developmental Math

Students who took higher levels of math in high school were still placed in developmental math courses in community college.



Source: Melguizo, T. & Ngo, F. (2019). [Mis/Alignment Between High School and Community College Standards](#). *Educational Researcher*, 20(10), 1-4. Notes: The data used to create this chart came from Table 2 of the report.

Nearly half (49%) of students starting college at a community college in California were placed in developmental education. For students who took higher level math courses in high school, their preparation is usually not considered during placement into college-level math courses. As a result, many students who may be ready for these courses were instead placed into developmental math classes.

A recent study of high school graduates who attended community college in California showed that students who took Algebra 2 or higher were placed in either arithmetic, pre-algebra, or Algebra 1 in community college. Over 50% of the students who took Algebra 2 and earned a grade of B or higher were placed in developmental math. A smaller, though still significant, proportion of students who took Trigonometry, Statistics, or Calculus in high school were placed in developmental math. This Points of Interest shows that students who took higher levels of math in high school were still placed into developmental math courses in community college.

For more information, contact the authors of the study or Vilan Odekar at vodekar@strongstart.org.

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