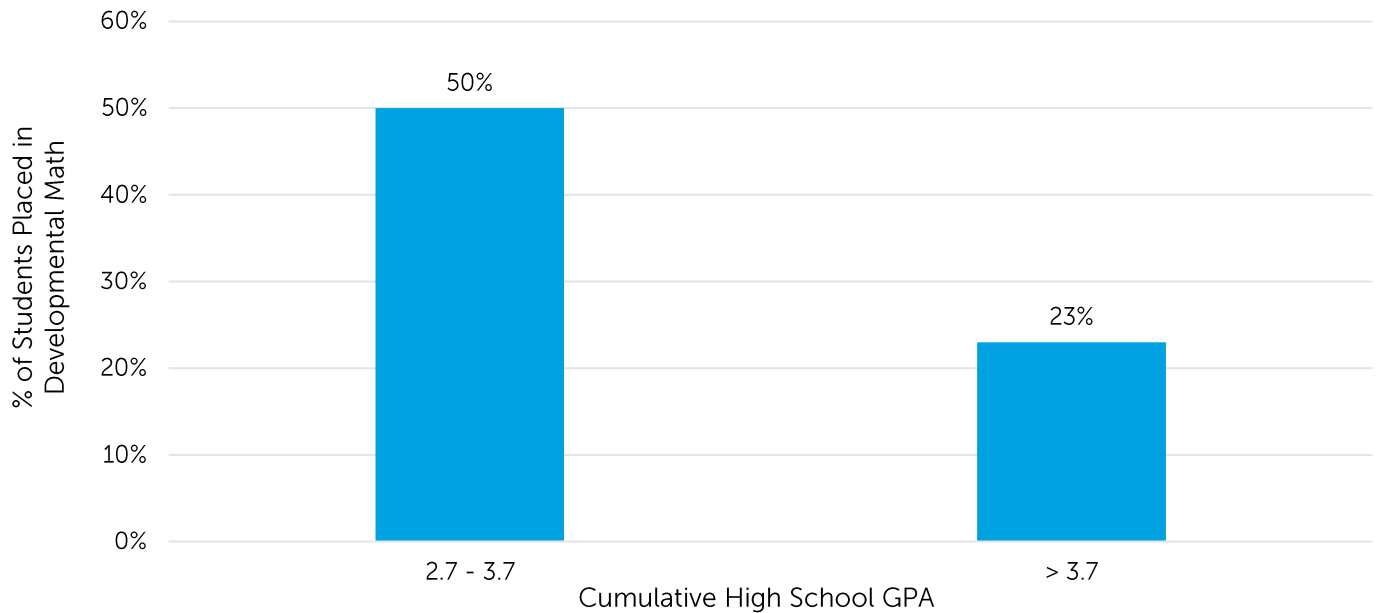


# Over Placement in Developmental Math

*College-ready students, as measured by overall high school GPA, are placed in developmental math courses despite having high GPAs.*



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.

In recent years, community colleges have moved towards using a student's overall high school grade point average (GPA) as an additional measure to determine the student's college-readiness for gateway math courses. Studies show that overall high school GPA can be a reliable predictor of success in these courses. The higher the GPA, the more likely the student will pass the gateway course. Despite this, some colleges are still placing students with high overall high school GPAs in developmental courses.

In a study that tracked 100,000 California high school graduates from a large urban school district into and through community college, about 75% of the students were placed in developmental math or English. Of this group, 23% had an overall high school GPA above 3.7. This Points of Interest shows that college-ready students, as measured by overall high school GPA, are placed into developmental math courses despite having high GPAs.

For more information, contact the authors of the study or Vilan Odekar at [vodekar@strongstart.org](mailto:vodekar@strongstart.org).

May 20, 2020