



# Project Arrive Research Highlights

Using Research to Improve the Lives of SFUSD Students<sup>1</sup> – Fall 2016

## Academic Achievement Outcomes

SFUSD's early warning indicator (EWI) system identifies 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are at risk for high school dropout because of poor attendance and/or low grades. Project Arrive is a high school-based group mentoring program that is designed to prevent school dropout. Project Arrive works primarily with students identified through the EWI system. Here, we summarize some of the academic outcomes and compare data from 124 Project Arrive students with data from 116 students from a comparison group with similar risk characteristics.

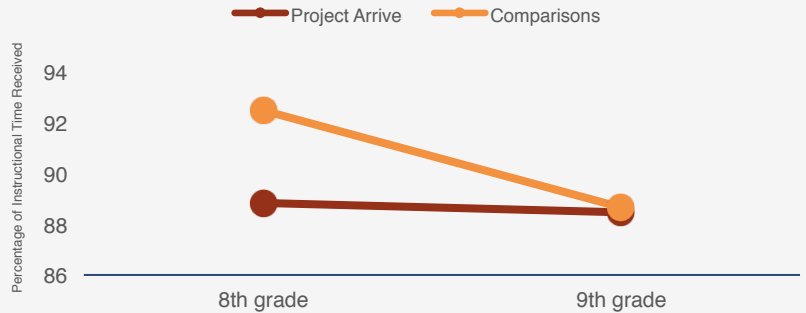
### EWI Risk Factors

8th grade		Attendance Risk (<87.5% Instruc. Time)	Academic Risk (<2.00 GPA)	Both Risks
	<b>Project Arrive</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>12%</b>
	<b>Comparisons</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>10%</b>

Project Arrive participants and comparisons had similar rates of academic risk in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and Project Arrive students were more likely to exhibit attendance risk than comparison students.

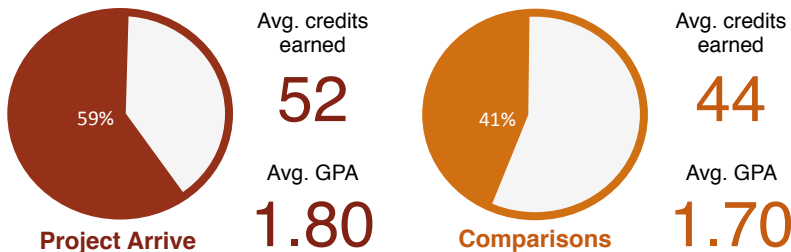
### Instructional Time

Attendance is measured as the percentage of instructional time students received over the school year. Attendance rates for Project Arrive participants did not change from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade, whereas attendance for comparisons declined from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.



### Academic Success

Percent of students that have earned 55+ credits\*



\*In order to be on track to graduate, students need to have earned at least 55 credits by the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

With regard to earned academic credits, Project Arrive participants were nearly 3 times as likely to be on track toward graduation than comparisons by the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. On average, Project Arrive participants were within about 1 course of earning enough credits to be "on track", whereas comparisons had fallen behind by more than 2 courses by the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Although the average GPA for both groups was below 2.0, Project Arrive students earned higher grades than comparisons.

### Conclusion

Project Arrive is reaching a group of students who are at significant risk for dropout. Participation in Project Arrive appears to prevent them from developing greater risk for falling behind academically in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. These findings indicate that Project Arrive may be changing the trajectory of students' academic success in their first year of high school. More data are needed to clarify whether this trend is sustained after ninth grade when students are no longer enrolled.

<sup>1</sup>Project Arrive Research Highlights are developed through a partnership of Georgia State University with SFUSD's Student, Family, & Community Support Department and Research, Planning, and Accountability Data Center to support, further develop, and evaluate the effectiveness of Project Arrive. For information about the Project Arrive program, contact Vida Sanford ([SanfordV@sfusd.edu](mailto:SanfordV@sfusd.edu)); for information about the research, contact Gabriel Kuperminc ([gkuperminc@gsu.edu](mailto:gkuperminc@gsu.edu)). Visit the Project Arrive website at <http://sites.gsu.edu/project-arrive>.