**ENVISION GRADUATES ARE COLLEGE-BOUND**

Envision students—especially African Americans, Latinos, and those who represent the first in their family to pursue higher education—enroll in college at higher rates than their non-Envision peers.

**DRIVING SUCCESS THROUGH RIGOROUS STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

As part of the “Know, Do, Reflect” approach to learning, Envision Education schools use multiple assessments that emphasize students’ deep understanding of academic topics. Students assemble a portfolio of their best work, which they must “defend,” dissertation-style, in front of an audience of educators, peers, and community members. As students prepare their portfolios and receive feedback from teachers, they hone not only their critical thinking skills, but also their communication skills, as they describe their learning across grades and classes. Students present a defense of their work at the end of the tenth grade, where they provide examples of what they have studied and explain their learning step by step. Students continue to make presentations of their work throughout their school career, which allows them to develop their communication skills and apply their knowledge. Seniors must pass the “college success portfolio” defense, which is required for graduation from an Envision school. One student reflected that in the tenth grade it was difficult to present, as she had to keep revising and improving.
Developing Real-World Projects

Envision teachers embed rigorous academic content in projects that speak to students’ life experiences and that have relevance and application in the larger world and in their communities. This instructional approach is called Project-Based Learning. These learning experiences are augmented by community-based projects and internships at partner organizations and businesses. During part of their eleventh grade year, all Envision students work at an internship site, such as the Oakland Zoo, St. Luke’s Hospital, Youth Radio, or California Academy of Sciences, where they work side by side with employer mentors who help them solve real-world problems and apply their knowledge.

Promoting Professional Development

Envision schools invest heavily in teacher professional growth, including new teacher training in August, three hours of weekly on-site professional development time, and ten days of professional development over the summer and during the school year. Envision teachers work and learn collaboratively, sharing their projects and tools, trading ideas and successes, and learning best practices from each other—within and between Envision Schools and, through Envision Learning Partners, between schools and systems across the country.

College Preparation and Success for Each Student

Hand in hand with this academic preparation, teachers help students develop the skills, attitudes, and expectations that support college success. They do this by emphasizing lifelong learning, cultivating persistence and confidence, and helping students navigate the college admissions process. Envision students also visit college campuses and receive critical tutoring to prepare for the SAT. This intentional focus on college preparation and the strong academic foundation students receive at Envision Schools has led to positive outcomes. According to data collected by Envision, fully 100 percent of Envision students meet all the requirements for admission to California’s public university system, and more than 90 percent of graduates go on to attend either a two- or four-year college, compared to 40 percent of all California high school graduates. Additionally, 87 percent of African American students and 91 percent of Hispanic students at Envision Schools go to college, compared to the national averages for those groups of 32 percent and 25 percent respectively.