

College Bound Grant Program

Helping students prepare for college since 1986



College Bound targets students in Abbott school districts with academic courses, enrichment activities, test preparation, college tours, tutoring, and much more so they can go to college and succeed. Ten programs located at 12 colleges and universities in New Jersey help students in 6th-12th grades prepare academically and then navigate the college application process.

In 2003, College Bound provided college readiness services to
2100 students in
224 public middle and high schools in
17 Abbott districts

Outcome Measures	College Bound Students	Comparison Groups
Graduation rate of 12 th graders	97%	78% at high schools served
College enrollment of low-income students within six months of high school graduation	76%	44% nationally
College enrollment of African American students within six months of high school graduation	75%	55% nationally
College enrollment of Hispanic students within six months of high school graduation	69%	52% nationally
Percent of 12 th graders taking the SAT	78%	51% at high schools served
Average verbal SAT score	445	403 at high schools served
Average math SAT score	475	412 at high schools served

COLLEGE BOUND OVERVIEW

- Purpose:** Established in 1986 to address the educational needs and aspirations of at-risk students in grades 6-12 in the 31 Abbott school districts
- Appropriation:** \$2.9 million annually; level funding for the past 13 years
- Students:** 2100 students to be served for FY 2005
- Institutional Partners:** 12 colleges and universities provide significant funding and other resources to support the College Bound programs
- Program Features:** Four- to six-week summer programs on college campuses, twenty sessions during the academic year with at least ten Saturday sessions, counseling, tutoring, field trips, career awareness events, multicultural enrichment activities, campus visits, college admission and financial aid information sessions, parent activities, and staff training

Q: How does College Bound make a difference in students' lives?

A: Students from low-income families face many barriers to attending college. Nationally, less than 44 percent of these students attend college within six months of graduating high school. College Bound programs help New Jersey students overcome these obstacles by providing an array of essential academic activities and services. In 2003, 76 percent of College Bound seniors (190 of 251) attended college within six months of graduating high school.

Q: How does College Bound help Abbott school districts?

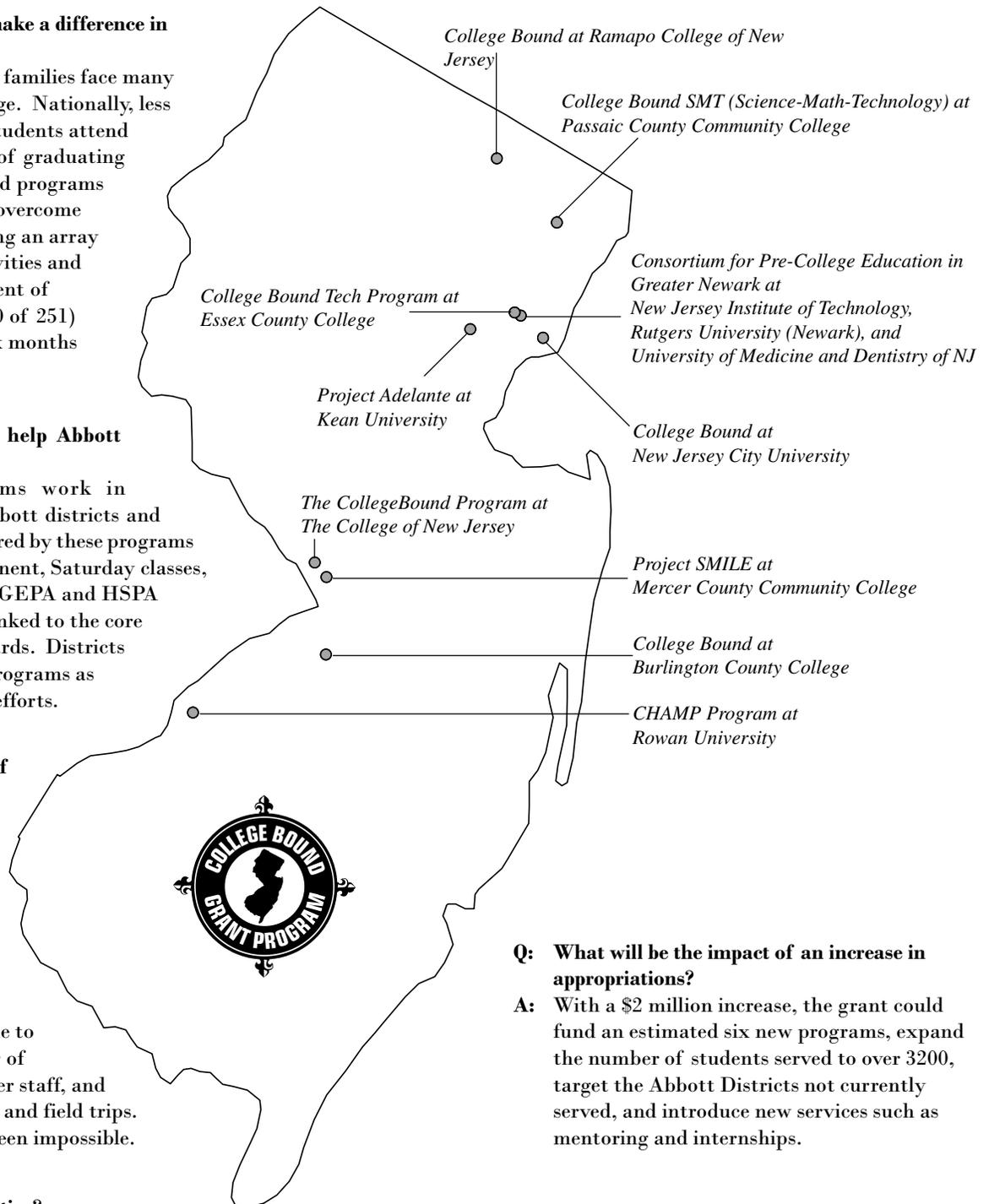
A: College Bound programs work in collaboration with the Abbott districts and schools. The curricula offered by these programs during the summer component, Saturday classes, after-school tutoring, and GEPA and HSPA preparatory sessions are linked to the core curriculum content standards. Districts and schools perceive the programs as partners in school reform efforts.

Q: What has been the effect of 13 years of level funding?

A: Due to inflation, the costs of delivering services have risen significantly. College Bound programs have been forced to make difficult decisions about services for students. Programs have been unable to hire the necessary number of qualified teachers and other staff, and have reduced college visits and field trips. Adding new services has been impossible.

Q: Is College Bound cost-effective?

A: Yes. The per student cost of College Bound is significantly less than comparable programs at the federal level. In FY 2003, the state's contribution to College Bound was \$1,099 per student whereas the federal government's contribution to Upward Bound was \$4,693 per student, and to an Upward Bound Math/Science student, \$4,813.



Q: What will be the impact of an increase in appropriations?

A: With a \$2 million increase, the grant could fund an estimated six new programs, expand the number of students served to over 3200, target the Abbott Districts not currently served, and introduce new services such as mentoring and internships.