

### The College Match Program Overview

The goal of the College Match Program is to increase the rate at which high-achieving students apply to, are admitted to, and enroll in more selective colleges that match their academic qualifications. This means, for example, helping a student to enroll in a four-year state university rather than a community college, or a more competitive university over a less selective institution.

The College Match Program (CMP) approach targets students who are overlooked by many other college success initiatives: capable students who are prepared for college but need advice and support to choose a

college wisely. College Match places “near-peer” advisors in high schools to help these students plan college searches, complete applications, financial aid forms and scholarships, and choose postsecondary institutions that will best serve their academic, social, and personal needs. The foundation of the CMP model is the belief that students who enroll in a college or university that is a good match are most likely to thrive, persist, and graduate. For more information about the College Match Program, please visit:

[www.mdrc.org/project/college-match-program](http://www.mdrc.org/project/college-match-program)

### The College Match List of Postsecondary Institutions

The College Match List of Postsecondary Institutions, also referred to as the “College Match List” (see accompanying Excel spreadsheet), was created to provide advisors and students with a selection of colleges and universities that would most improve students’ chances of college success. The list of eighty two institutions was derived using the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data, which is publically available through the National Center for Education Statistics. (<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>)

This College Match List was designed specifically for students participating in the College Match Program pilot in New York City. To be eligible for the program, students must meet City University of New York (CUNY) college readiness standards, which include a score of 75 or above on English Regents (or 480 on SAT Verbal) and a score of 80 or above on Math Regents (or 480 or above on SAT Math). Students also typically have a GPA of 3.0 or greater.

All postsecondary institutions on the College Match List are selective not-for-profit 4-year institutions in the Northeastern region (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Delaware, Washington DC, and Connecticut). The list includes both public and private colleges and universities. This diversity of colleges and universities provides Match students with

a range of institutions to apply to; in fact, many students could potentially select safety, match, and reach schools from just the College Match list of postsecondary institutions.

The accompanying list of “match” institutions includes colleges and universities ranked from *competitive* to *most competitive* by Barron’s. Barron’s selectivity ratings are based on entering students’ GPAs, college entrance exam scores, class rank, and the college’s application-acceptance ratio. With the exception of five CUNY colleges, all of the institutions have four-year graduation rates of 50% or above, and six-year graduation rates for the total student population, as well as for the Black and Hispanic population, of 60% or above. In addition, there is limited disparity (10 percentage points or fewer) between six-year college graduation rates of Black and Hispanic students and the total six-year graduation rates at these institutions. CUNY senior colleges have lower graduation rates as publically reported, but considering that it is difficult to track transfer out rates to other institutions, as well as the strong financial incentives for NYC student to attend CUNY colleges, five CUNY colleges are included on this College Match List.

**Direct questions about the Users’ Guide or the “Match List” to Yana Kusayeva at [yana.kusayeva@mdrc.org](mailto:yana.kusayeva@mdrc.org) or 212.340-7601.**