

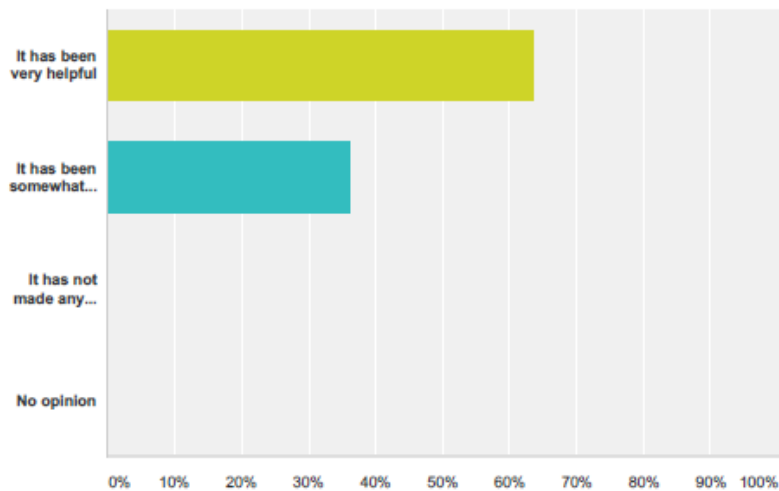
Summary of Developmental Evaluation of Ramp-Up to Readiness™

Conducted by Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) at the University of Minnesota, January 2015

CAREI conducted a survey and interviews of principals of current Ramp-Up schools. Highlights of their findings include:

Q4 To what degree do you believe Ramp Up is helping to create a college-going culture in your school?

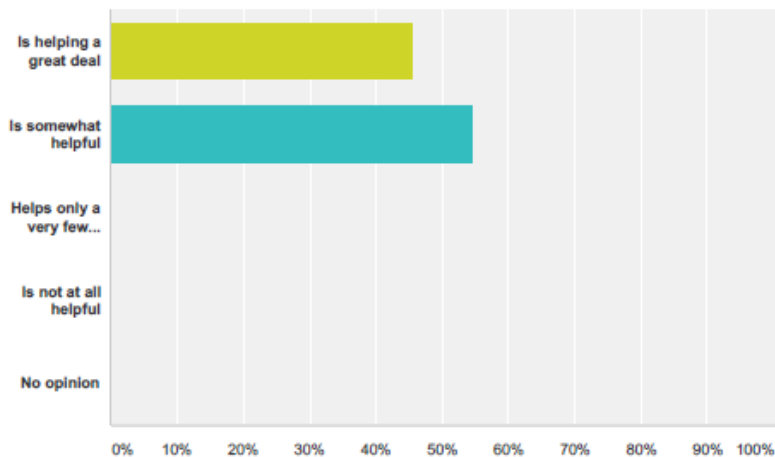
Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



- *I think for us we had a climate here that was very centered on post-secondary education and whenever we used the term “college” with students, that it meant 4 years. The biggest difference since we have implemented Ramp Up is that students are looking at that very differently...that post-secondary education or college is anything beyond high school, whether it is a 2-year or 4-year program. Kids are making better decisions about [those choices] as well.*
- *I think it has changed the way in which we have conversations with kids. For our kids, I think it has changed the way they view college. Prior to Ramp Up, if students weren’t thinking about a 4-year college, they tuned out. Now it is discussed as more options.*
- *We now define [college] as anything after secondary, from 1 to 4 years, including certificate programs....I think it has helped to have the mindset that there is a place for everybody...even our special education students.*

Q10 To what degree do you think Ramp Up is helping to prepare students to make informed decisions about post-secondary education?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



- *The biggest thing is now having a common vocabulary on planning—planning for the future in general. Before, when you would ask students what they plan to do, they just gave you a blank look. Now they have plans in place.*
- *Everything around the building is about post-secondary readiness... posters, banners, projects that the kids do.*
- *Just the awareness of being comfortable in making post-secondary decisions. Talking about the importance of that process has become a much more standard conversation... The overall focus of post-secondary readiness is important.*
- *I get the sense from students that they are talking a lot with each other about how to apply to college...there is peer pressure to get on it and move through the steps.*

School-wide Effort

- *One of the biggest pieces is that it has broadened the college access discussion to be more school-wide. We do it through our homeroom classes so **all** of the teachers are involved in teaching Ramp Up lessons. In the past, the college access piece has been what the counselors do.*
- *Ramp Up is an experience that has brought people together....I think it has gotten everyone on the same page as to what college means.*

- *The sooner you make those connections the better. At 6th grade, it is a great time to start; by 10th grade it is too late.*
- *I was just visiting with a 7th grader, and he started talking to me about his learning style...and I thought how cool is that—that he has a handle on how he has to learn.*

Positive Effect on Both Students and Parents

- *I think for some of the students who are high level and who have parents who are pushing them, they are filling out scholarship forms and applications and are probably thinking, "I already know this." But for those students who do not have that support or role models at home, Ramp Up has impacted them the most. And for us, that is the majority of our population.*
- *In our [non-English speaking] parent group, they are very grateful for the conversations and the information.*
- *I think with our older kids, the parents have seen the portfolios, and I think the parents are pleased with it. It also starts the conversation, "How do you finance this?" That is huge.*
- *At a recent parent meeting, many of those parents had not been to college, but they were very positive about the program. They have seen drastic changes in their students' attitude towards school and post-secondary plans. I have never received a negative comment from parents over all of the years we have been in the Ramp Up program.*
- *We are seeing improved attendance, more students choosing to be in higher level courses, and more students exploring out in college visits. I think that the majority of this change is due to what is happening with Ramp Up.*
- *We have always had a great deal of our students going on to post-secondary, but now they are more deliberate about their choices.*
- *Ramp Up has lead us into doing student-led conferences in our building for the first time... We now have students taking a more active role in their own academic progress. Just the awareness of being comfortable in making post-secondary decisions... Parent-teacher conferences in the past have been compliance conversations. Ramp Up has been a vehicle to make those changes happen.*