

Postsecondary Education for Transition-Age Students with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities: A National Survey

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BACKGROUND

- Students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (IDD)
 - Pervasive support needs
 - Typically stay in school to age 21
 - Least likely of all students with disabilities to attend postsecondary education (PSE)
- Postsecondary education programs (PSE programs)
 - Provide age appropriate environment for students with IDD ages 18-21
 - Began in 1970s but focus recently shifted to inclusive experiences
 - Students with IDD participating in college classes, activities, employment on campus
- Previous research
 - Primarily descriptive reports
 - One study of effects of PSE program on employment outcomes for 20 students
 - Three surveys: two of programs in Maryland, one national survey of 25 programs

PURPOSE

Address gaps in our understanding of characteristics of PSE programs and participation of students with IDD in college classes through a national survey

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the overall characteristics of PSE programs that serve students with IDD who are ages 18-21 and still receiving special education services?
- To what extent are students with IDD participating in college classes?

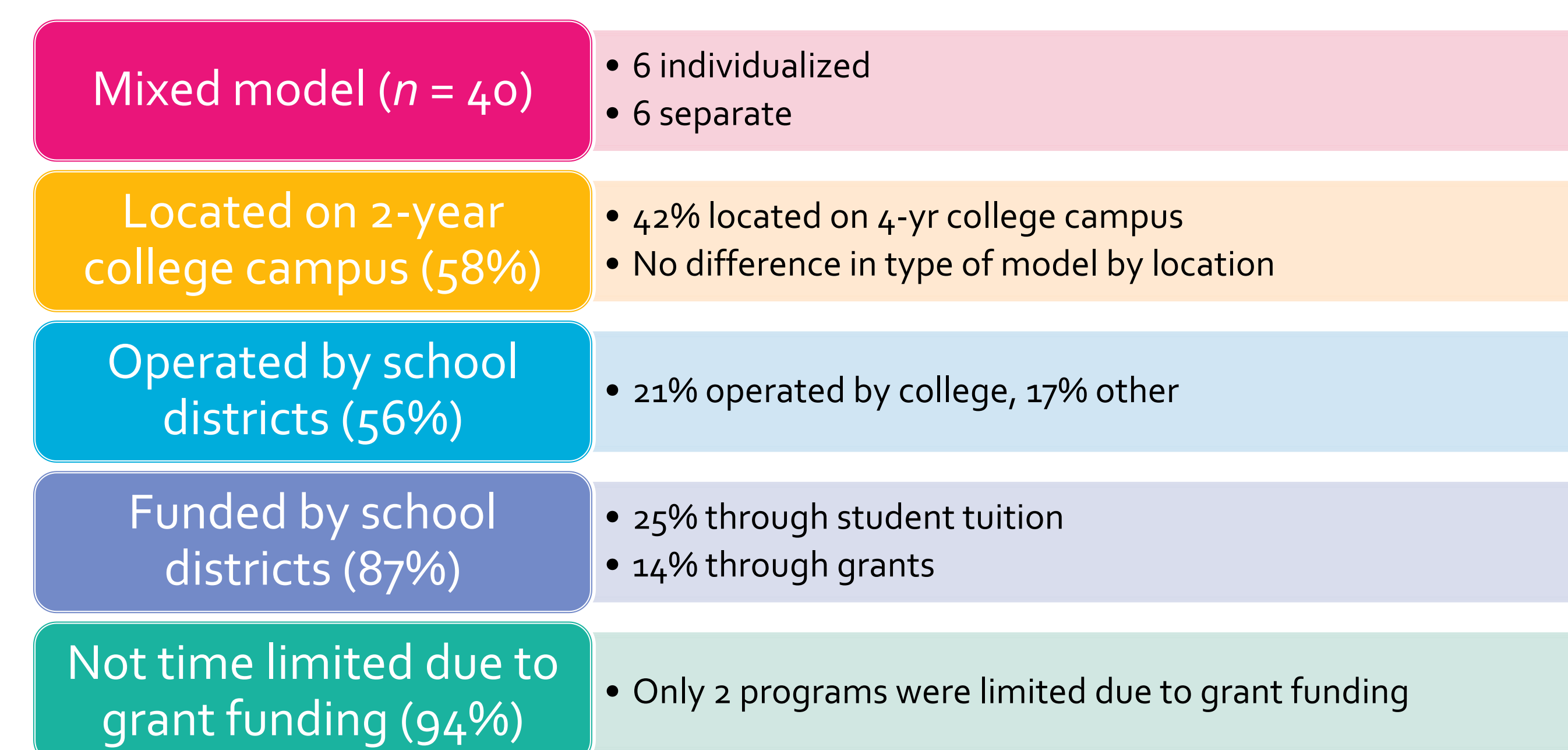
METHOD

- Web format using Survey Monkey
- Reviewed by 2 experts and piloted with 8 PSE programs
- Final version: 11 questions on general characteristics, 8 questions on college classes
- Programs located through national database (Think College)
- Selection criteria:
 - provided access to the campus of a PSE institution (e.g., four-year or two-year university or college or community college)
 - served students with IDD
 - served students who were ages 18-21 and who were still receiving special education services, and
 - were located in the United States
- Program coordinators contacted via email
- 58 responses but 6 did not meet selection criteria
- Final response set: 52 out of 81 eligible programs (64%)

RESULTS

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: CHARACTERISTICS

Majority of programs were:



Program enrollment varied widely:

Measure	Overall	Type of program			Location of program	
		Individualized	Mixed	Separate	2-year	4-year
M	24.9	13.4	26.9	24	29.0	20.0
Mdn	12	7	12	20	14	10
(range)	(1-160)	(4-25)	(1-160)	(17-35)	(4-160)	(1-135)

Admissions criteria

- Most frequently stated factors were that students must:
 - Be above a certain age (e.g., 18) (87%)
 - Not exhibit challenging behavior (52%)
 - Have indicated a desire to be on campus (52%)
 - Be in a particular school district (46%)
- About a third of programs reported that they do not admit students who:
 - Are not able to navigate to or around campus independently
 - Lack safety skills
- No individualized programs reported considering challenging behavior, ability to navigate to or around campus, or safety skills.

Purpose of being on college campus



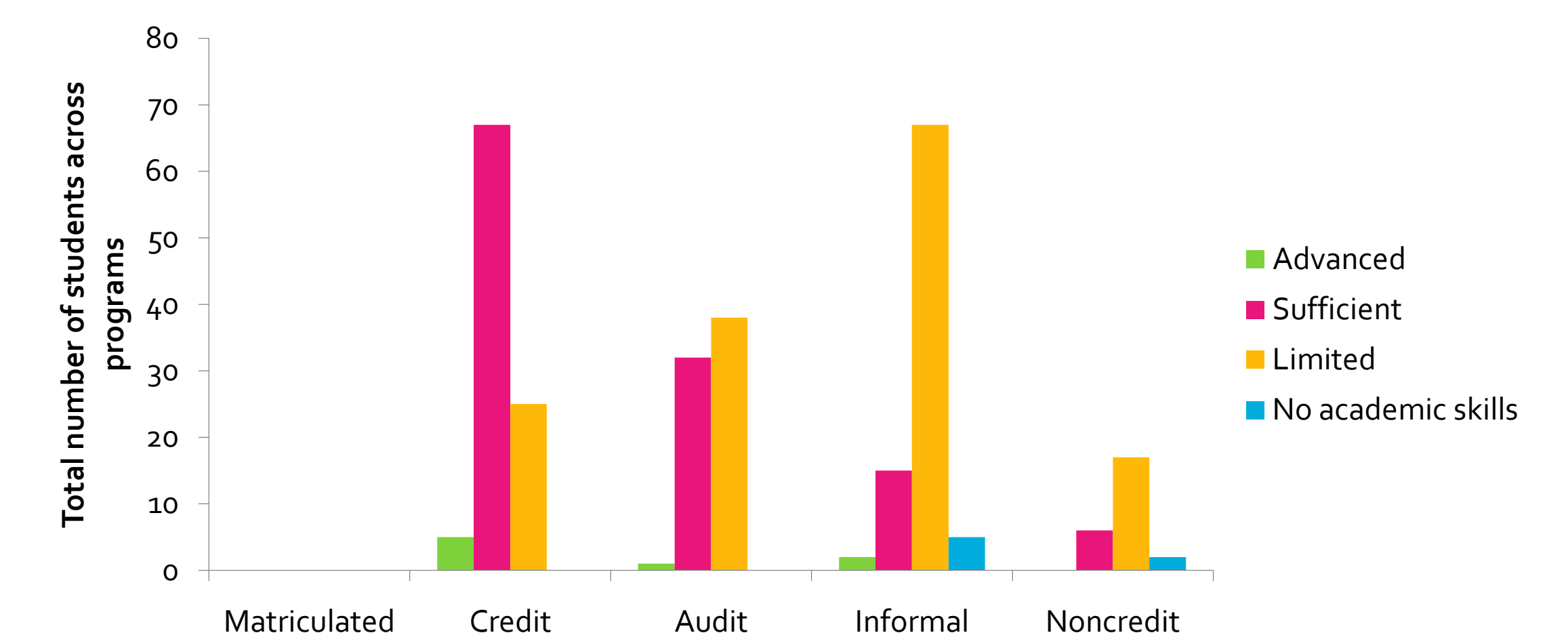
RESEARCH QUESTION 2: COLLEGE CLASSES

Percentage taking college classes:

	Type of program			Location of program	
	Individualized	Mixed	Separate	2-year	4-year
Overall	97.2%	21.0%	0%	19.9%	21.8%
	23.7%				

80% of programs reported that at least one student was taking a college class

Method of participation by academic skills of students



Types of college classes

Examples grouped by content analysis

Vocational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auto Child care 	Remedial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic reading Basic math 	Health and fitness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming Dance
Computing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keyboarding Intro to computers 	Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acting Drawing 	Academic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood education History
		Leisure/home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooking Baking

DISCUSSION

Research question 1

- PSE only for students enrolled in school districts that have PSE programs?
- PSE for motivated students with low support needs?
- Employment programs in age-appropriate settings?

Research question 2

