

Reimagining Developmental Education

CAPR \ 2019

The Rise of Developmental Education Reform

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Why Study Developmental Education?

- 68% of community college students & 40% of students at public 4-year colleges take developmental courses
- More than half never complete; fewer graduate
- Dev-ed reforms in states, systems, and colleges include:
 - Incorporating more data to assess college readiness
 - Changing instructional practices
 - Providing additional services to support students

The Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness (CAPR)

- Led by the Community College Research Center & MDRC
- Three major studies:
 - National Study of Developmental Education
 - Evaluation of Multiple Measures Placement
 - Evaluation of Dana Center Mathematics Pathways
- Two supplemental studies:
 - Early Start policy in California
 - Emporium Model of developmental math in Tennessee

A National Study of Developmental Education Policies & Practices

1. Nationally representative survey

- Sample: 1,055 broad-access postsecondary institutions
- Asked about colleges' assessment, placement, and instructional practices in 2015-2016
- Survey had 2 sections: math, and reading and writing
- Fielded in two waves: Spring 2016 and Fall 2016

2. Qualitative study

- 127 qualitative interviews from 83 public colleges, college systems, and state-level higher education governing bodies
- Includes 36 states and Washington, D.C.

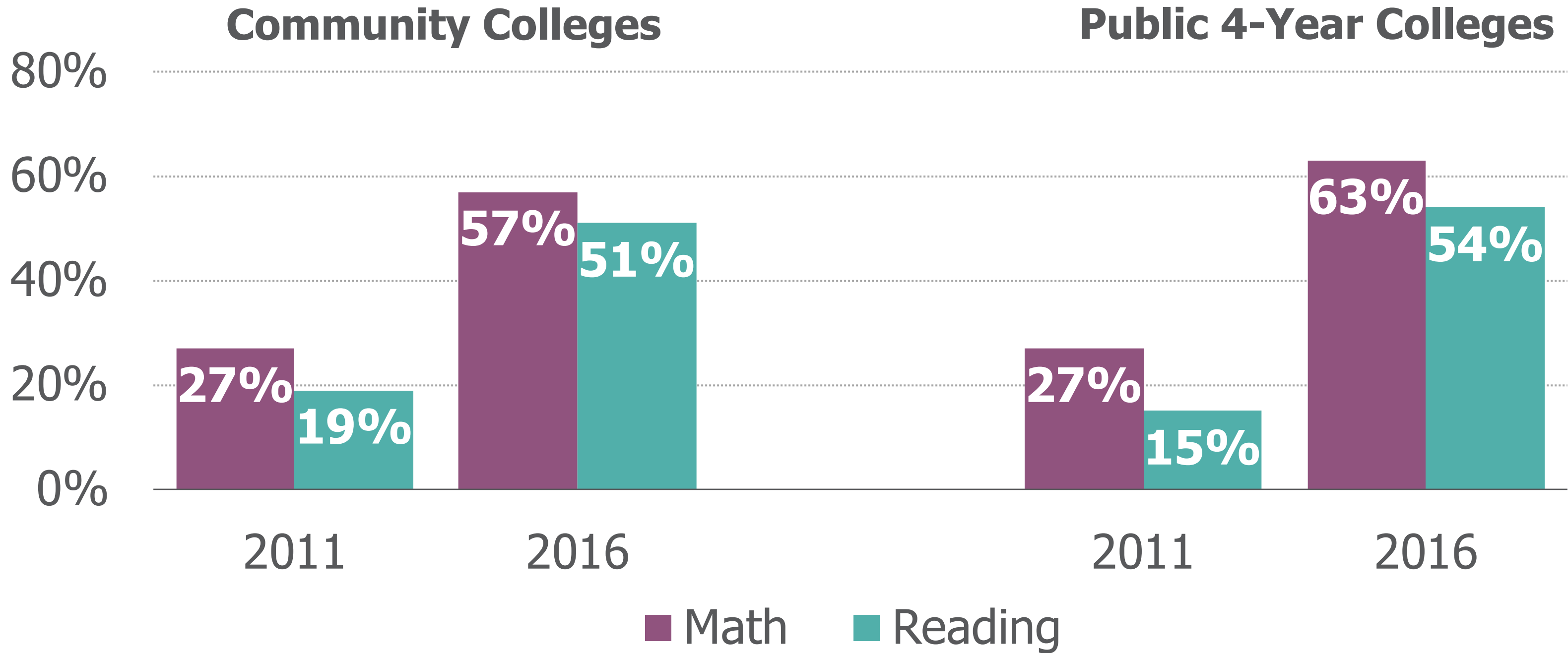
The Changing Landscape of Developmental Education



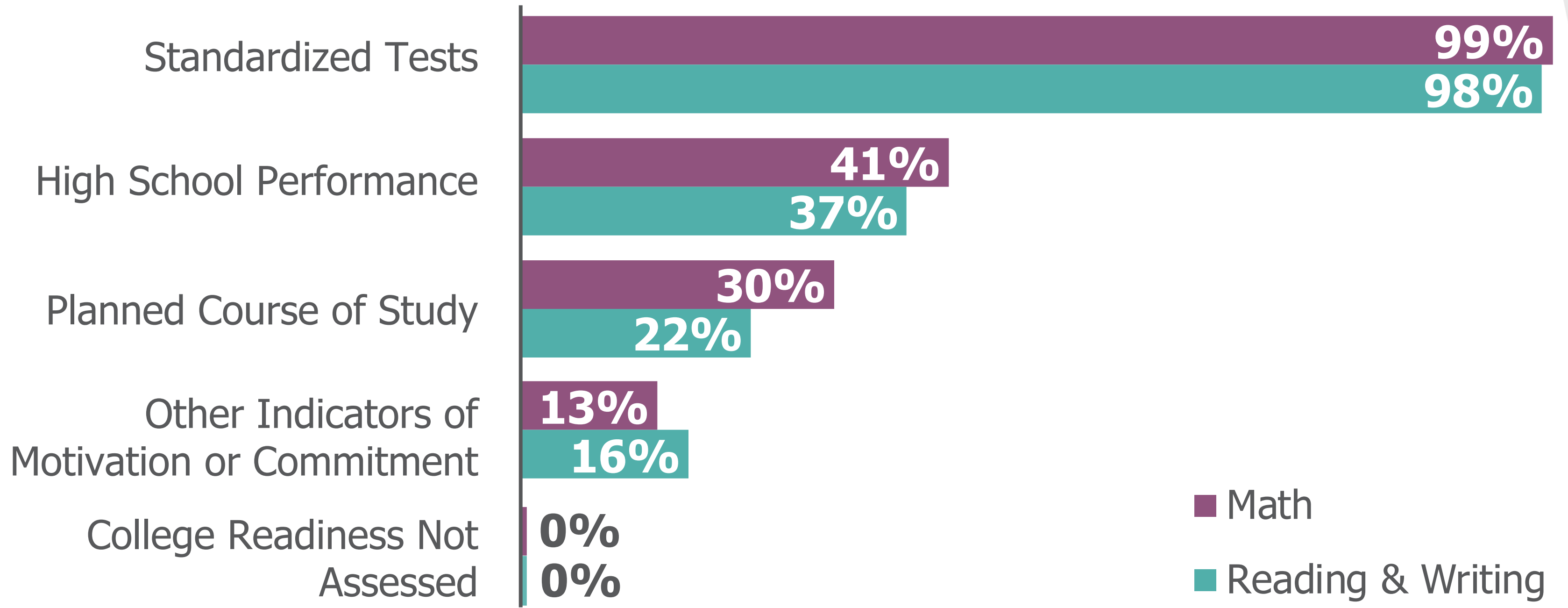
Most public colleges offer developmental education

- Nearly all colleges (>96%) use at least 1 method to assess students' college readiness
- Most colleges offer developmental courses
- Community colleges on average offer 2x as many sections of developmental education than public 4-years
- Colleges tend to offer more sections of developmental math than developmental reading and writing

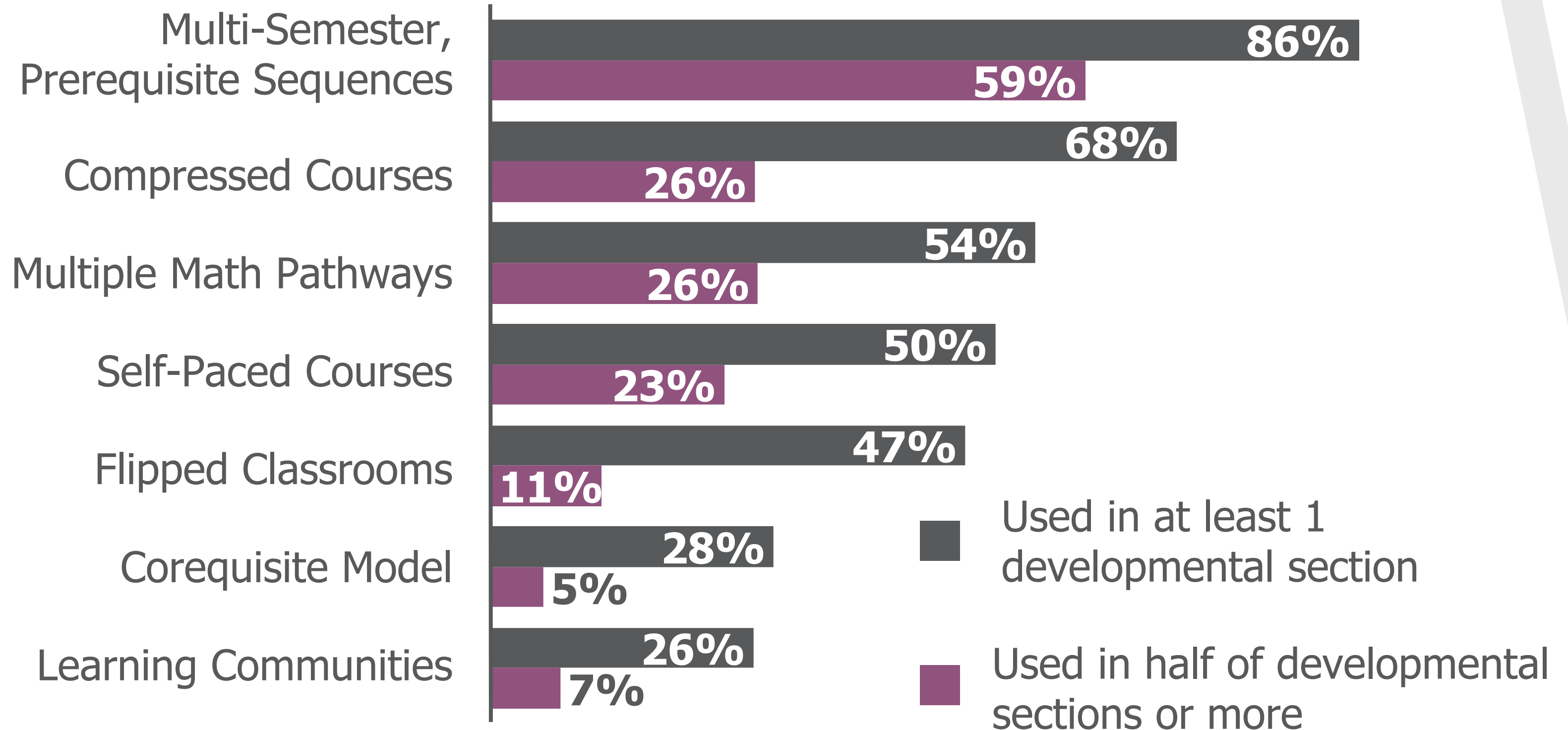
Public Colleges Using Measures Other than Standardized Tests for Assessment



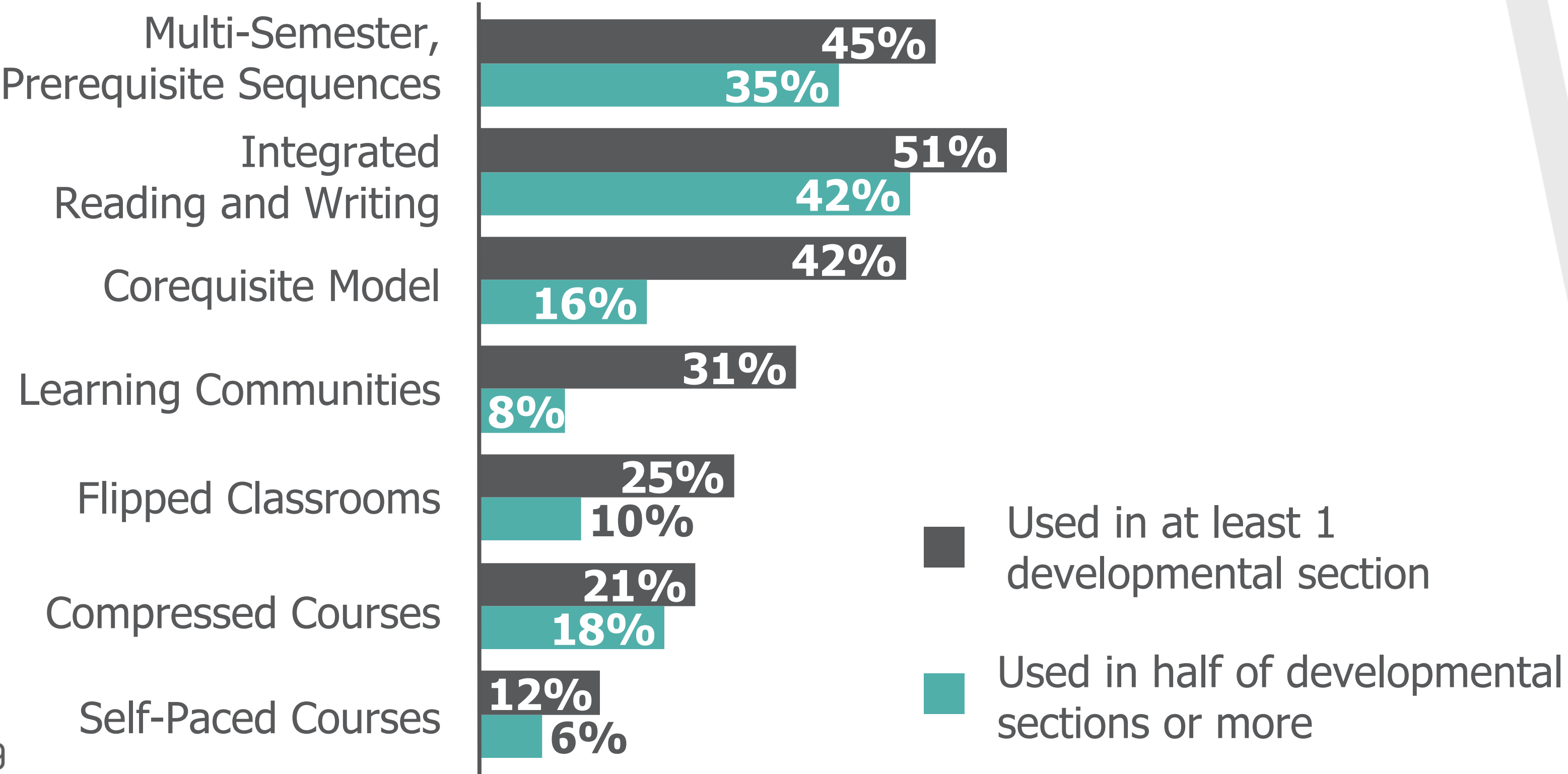
Processes Used to Determine College Readiness in Community Colleges



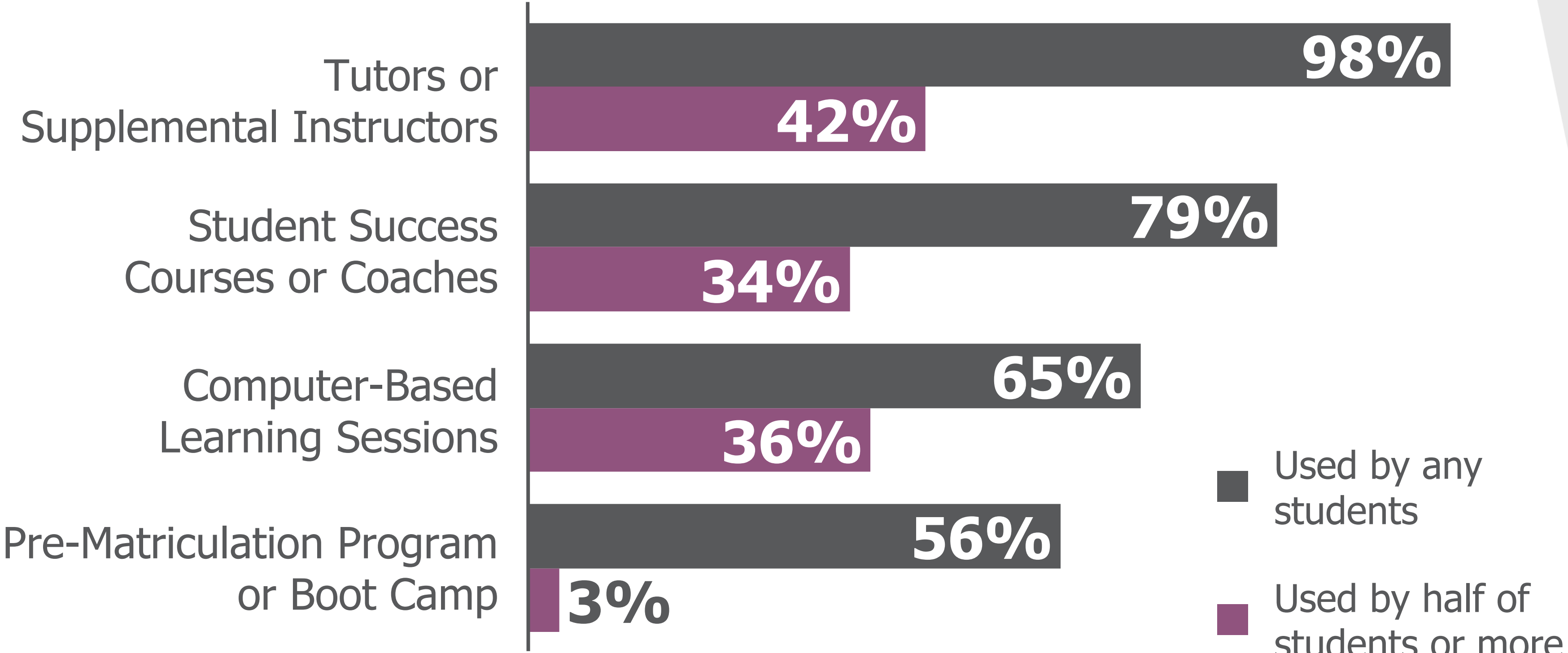
Scale of Use of Developmental Math Instructional Methods in Community Colleges



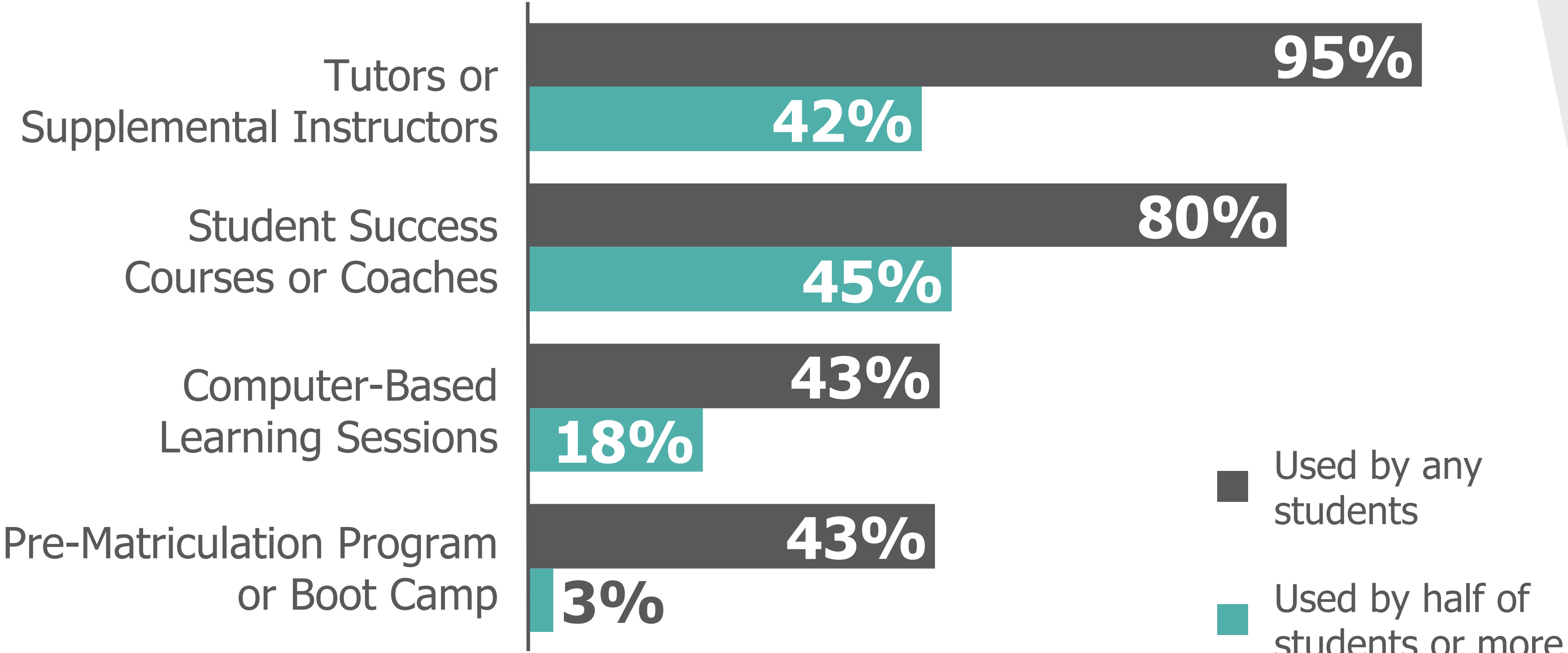
Scale of Use of Developmental Reading and Writing Instructional Methods in Community Colleges



Uptake of Student Support Services by Community College Students Identified as Underprepared in Math



Uptake of Student Support Services by Community College Students Identified as Underprepared in Reading and Writing



Major Factors Driving Public Colleges' Institutional Practices

Faculty Input



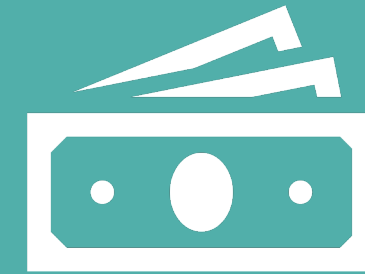
87-93%

Research Conducted by the Institution



72-77%

Availability of Resources



68-76%

Practices at Other Colleges



61-71%

Research Conducted Elsewhere



59-70%

State Policies



58-69%

A Moment of Opportunity

- Developmental education is a dominant issue in broad-access colleges.
- There has been a lot of reform, but scale is relatively limited.
- Students encounter many different forms of dev ed across the country, and even within a single institution.
- There is a lot to untangle around the factors that drive colleges' developmental education practices.



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Thank you!

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The Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness (CAPR) is funded through a grant (R305C140007) from the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.

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