



## College Matching: Project “ECC”

### AY 2020-21

**Growth Opportunity.** In a 2020 Bellwether Education Partners study, an opportunity was identified to improve “match and fit” for college-going Wave-Makers to reduce undermatching<sup>1</sup> and maximize their estimated college completion (ECC) rate.

**Innovation Intent and Vision.** Project ECC is a “quick win” initiative to reduce the rate at which undermatching occurs for Making Waves Academy graduates who choose to go to college, based on a study by Bellwether Education Partners.

- The **innovation intent** of Project ECC is to increase college completion rates for college-going Wave-Makers.
- The **vision** of Project ECC is for 90.0% of college-going seniors to “match” with at least one college with the target estimated college completion (ECC) rate available to their academic qualifications, according to a selectivity index prepared by Bellwether Education Partners.

**Table 1. College Matching Project Timeline.** Project ECC incrementally paces the rate at which we hope to match college-going graduates with at least one college with the target Estimated College Completion (ECC) rate available to their academic qualifications over a three-year period.


		Project ECC Timeline		
	AY 2019-20	AY 2020-21	AY 2021-22	AY 2022-23
% Match to Target ECC Rates for College-Goers	Benchmark Baseline Data	70.0% Projected	80.0% Projected	90.0% Projected

Continued.

<sup>1</sup> According to Bellwether Education Partners, “undermatching” occurs when a student attends a college that is less selective than their credentials would otherwise allow. Students from low-income families are more likely to undermatch when enrolling in college. Less selective institutions often have less financial aid to give, fewer supports for students, and lower graduation rates. Undermatched students face longer odds to complete a post-secondary degree or certificate.

**Table 2. Sample Match by Estimated College Completion Rate.** A college-going student with a GPA of 2.75 and an SAT Score of 870 should expect to “match” with an institution with an estimated college completion (ECC) rate of 66.0%.

## Match by Estimated College Completion Rate




Highest Score		Final High School GPA							
ACT	SAT	<1.74	1.75 - 1.99	2.00 - 2.49	2.50 - 2.75	2.75 - 2.99	3.00 - 3.24	3.25 - 3.74	3.75+
24+	1090+	52%	52%	52%	79%	79%	88%	88%	88%
21 - 23	980 - 1080	42%	42%	52%	66%	79%	79%	79%	79%
18 - 20	870 - 970	42%	42%	52%	66%	66%	79%	79%	79%
16 - 17	790 - 860	29%	42%	42%	52%	52%	52%	66%	79%
<16 or No ACT	<790 or No SAT	29%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	52%	52%

**Target Estimated College Completion (ECC) Rate**

This selectivity index, based on a version prepared by Bellwether Education Partners, can be used to determine a “match” between student qualifications and estimated college completion (ECC) rates. Estimated college completion rates represent the average six-year grad rates of similarly rated institutions within each of Barron’s selectivity ratings. Six-year grad rates pulled from IPEDs for the 2011 cohort of first-time, full-time students seeking a bachelor degree or equivalent at four-year institutions (n=1,300 institutions).

**Table 3. Selectivity Index to Match by Estimated College Completion Rate.** Beginning in 2020, this is the index to be used to “match” college-going Wave-Makers to their target ECC when building college lists.

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Highest Score		Final High School GPA							
ACT	SAT	<1.74	1.75 - 1.99	2.00 - 2.49	2.50 - 2.75	2.75 - 2.99	3.00 - 3.24	3.25 - 3.74	3.75+
24+	1090+	52%	52%	52%	79%	79%	88%	88%	88%
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