According to a 2014 study by American Institutes for Research (AIR), the answer is yes.

The study explored the impact of the Early College High School Initiative, launched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2002. The initiative provided funds for the development of Early College High Schools, called Early Colleges, to give students who are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education the opportunity to enroll in college courses and receive credit while pursuing a high school diploma. The goal is to better prepare these students for college and career success.

AIR and its partner, SRI International, have studied the Early College High School Initiative for more than a decade, charting its growth and looking at student educational outcomes in Early Colleges. This study is the capstone project, allowing researchers to directly measure the initiative’s impact.
The Early College High School Initiative Impact Study compared educational outcomes for students who applied for admission to an Early College, participated in a lottery, and were admitted (“Early College students”) to educational outcomes for students who applied for admission, participated in a lottery, but were not admitted (“comparison students”). This randomized controlled trial design allowed researchers to provide strong evidence to answer the study research questions. All differences between Early College and comparison students reported in this summary are statistically significant unless otherwise noted.

### Key Findings

**High School Graduation and Achievement**

Early College students were more likely to graduate from high school than comparison students. Early College students also had higher English language arts assessment scores than comparison students, although mathematics assessment scores and grade point averages were about the same in the two groups.

**College Enrollment**

Early College students were more likely to enroll in college than comparison students. Almost two thirds of Early College students enrolled in college while they were still in high school, whereas less than one fourth of comparison students enrolled in college during high school. By the time students were two years out of high school, the majority of both groups had enrolled in college, but Early College students still enrolled at a higher rate.

**College Enrollment by Type of Institution**

Early College students were more likely than comparison students to enroll in two-year colleges and were as likely to enroll in four-year colleges. As the researchers followed students for several years, some students attended both two-year and four-year colleges. More than half of Early College students enrolled in two-year colleges, and more than half of Early College students enrolled in four-year colleges.
**College Degree Attainment**

Early College students were more likely to earn a college degree than comparison students. By the end of high school, 21 percent of Early College students earned a college degree. Types of degrees earned included certificates, associate’s degrees, and bachelor’s degrees, but almost all were associate’s degrees. About 1 percent of comparison students earned a degree during the same time period. Because Early Colleges start students working toward a college degree, we should expect these students to complete college degrees earlier than comparison students. However, by two years out of high school, comparison students had not yet caught up with Early College students in degree attainment.

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**Impacts for Underrepresented Students**

Early Colleges benefit all types of students. The Early College impacts on high school graduation and college enrollment were similar regardless of students’ gender, race/ethnicity, family income, achievement before high school, and whether they were the first in their family to attend college. Early Colleges were particularly effective at helping minority and lower income students earn college degrees.

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**High School Experiences**

Early College students had more positive high school experiences than comparison students. Early College students gave higher ratings than the comparison students to the following:

- The rigor of their high school experiences
- Their high school’s college-going culture
- The level of instructor support
- The quality of support for completing college and financial aid applications
Sandals are comfortable and practical for warm weather. They can be worn with a variety of casual outfits and are often sold in vibrant colors and patterns. A good pair can last for many seasons, making them a worthwhile investment. Sandals are ideal for summer vacations or day trips where comfort is key. They are perfect for spending time at the beach, walking around a warm city, or simply relaxing at home.