

## SUCCESS STORY

# Cabot Freshman Academy

## Getting Started With Pre-AP

### MAKING THE DECISION

Leaders at the Cabot Public School District and the Cabot Freshman Academy were looking for resources to encourage student collaboration and critical thinking in their 9th grade students, as well as teacher co-planning. Their research led them to consider Pre-AP.

After conversations with College Board, the leadership team brought the Cabot teachers into the discussion, and they agreed that Pre-AP could provide an opportunity for faculty collaboration, and support student growth through focused instructional content and rich instructional routines.

### EXPLAINING PRE-AP TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

- School counselors met with students and explained how Pre-AP provides grade-level instruction, but with more focused content and opportunities for collaboration in the classroom.
- In an information session for parents, Cabot leaders explained how Pre-AP would prepare students for later high school, AP, and college-level courses by providing critical grade-level information and engaging activities to ensure understanding.

**“There were hardly any questions about the program because everyone understood that this is a new way of thinking and teaching that will engage kids and get them to college.”**

## Implementing Pre-AP

### COLLABORATION IS KEY

The team kept **collaboration and co-planning** central:

- Every week, teachers met within their disciplines to co-plan.
- Every other week, teachers met across subjects.
- For a full day every 9 weeks, teachers held progress and tracking meetings.
- The mathematics and ELA department heads delivered lessons several days before all the other teachers, so they could share their learnings.

**“I’ve seen more collaboration than I’ve ever seen with this group of teachers.”**



CABOT,  
ARKANSAS

### MEET THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

#### Aaron M. Randolph

Executive Director of K–12 Curriculum/Instruction & Gifted/AP Programs, Cabot School District

#### Ahna Davis

Principal, Cabot Freshman Academy

### SCHOOL STATS

# 801

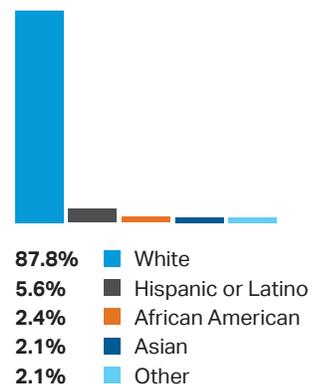
Students enrolled

# 100%

Students enrolled in Pre-AP

# 32%

Low income



### COURSES IMPLEMENTED

Pre-AP English 1

Pre-AP Algebra 1

## The Impact of Pre-AP

### IMPROVED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The team reports that student engagement and collaboration have increased.

**“We had [a student] making Cs and Ds, and he has flourished under this program. ... He said he thought he wasn’t Pre-AP material at the beginning of the year, but he has fallen in love with how he is being taught. He found a voice and his confidence.”**

### SETTING A HIGHER BAR

After their first year of Pre-AP, the team at Cabot Freshman Academy expects further growth from their students.

**“My teachers are very excited about this. Our kids are learning and having meaningful conversations. ... How high you set the bar is how high kids will go. And a lot of them have excelled in it. They can see a big difference. Pre-AP means getting the most out of our kids.”**

All quotations are from Ahna Davis, Principal, Cabot Freshman Academy.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1** Learn about the Pre-AP Program from College Board and schools and districts that have used it.
- 2** Share the information with teachers and include them in the decision.
- 3** Once you’ve decided on implementation, educate counselors about the program.
- 4** Use counselor presentations, parent nights, and social media to educate students and parents about the program.

Learn more about the Pre-AP Program at [pre-ap.collegeboard.org](https://pre-ap.collegeboard.org).