The Role of IR in Randomized Controlled Trials: the New Mathways Project Evaluation

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Outline

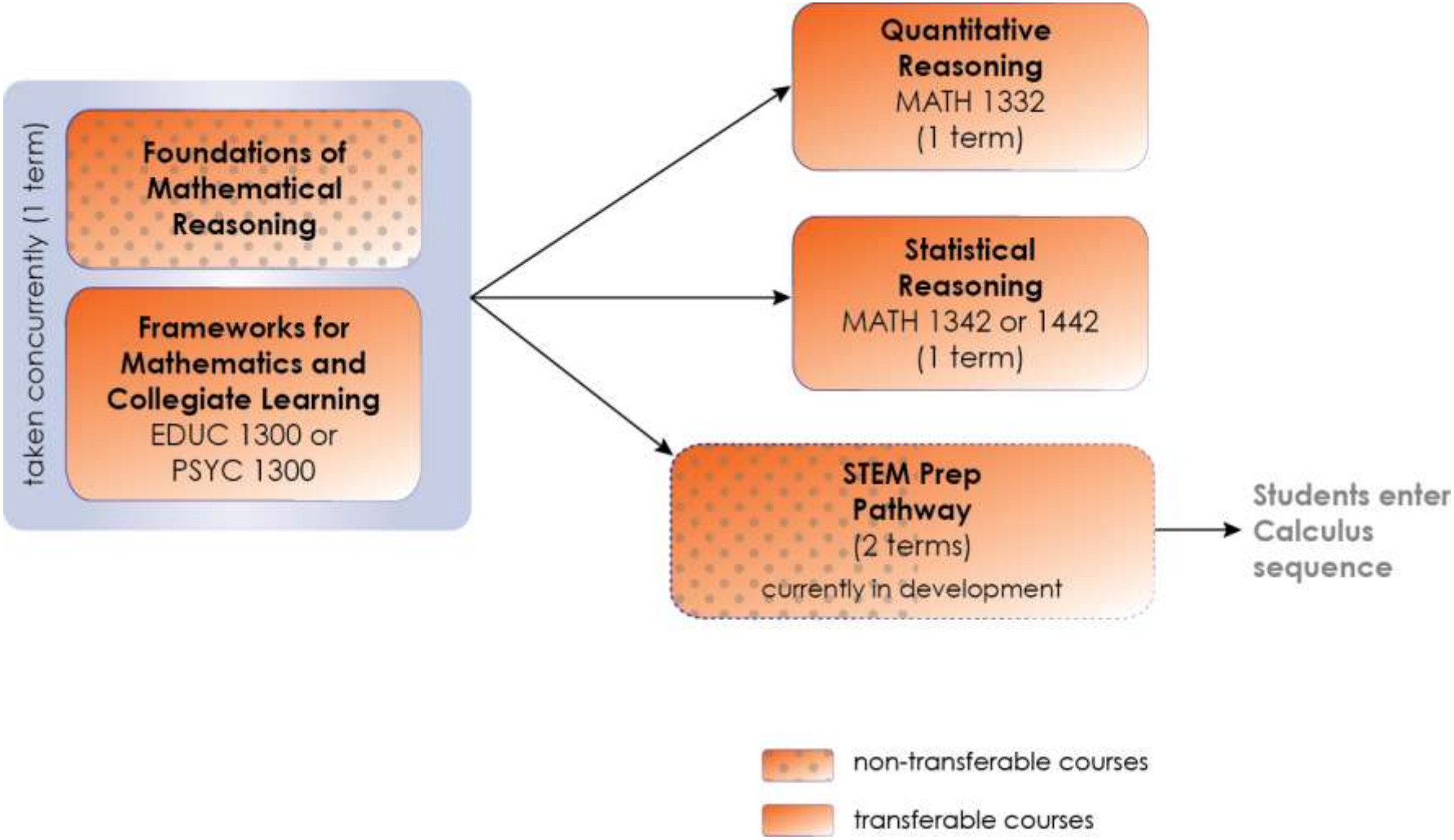
- Introduction
  - MDRC and the Charles A. Dana Center
  - The New Mathways Project (NMP)
- A primer on randomized controlled trials
- RCT implementation and the role of IR

Who We Are

mdrc
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE
TO IMPROVE SOCIAL POLICY

Charles A. Dana Center

The New Mathways Project



NMP Project Timeline

- Developing courses with feedback from faculty
- Started implementation this year with nine co-development colleges
- Nine colleges are currently participating in the mentorship program as mentees, with the goal of implementing in 2014 or 2015
- Co-development colleges and the Dana Center are working on issues of transfer with 4-year colleges
- Ultimate goal of implementing at all 50 Texas community colleges
- Program will scale nationally as well as within Texas

Evaluation Partnership with MDRC

- Working together for the last two years
- Worked with us to create tools to share with colleges
- Site visits to describe the implementation
- Statistical analysis of student data
- MDRC is preparing a pilot RCT in Fall 2014

RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS: A PRIMER

Three Types of Program Evaluation

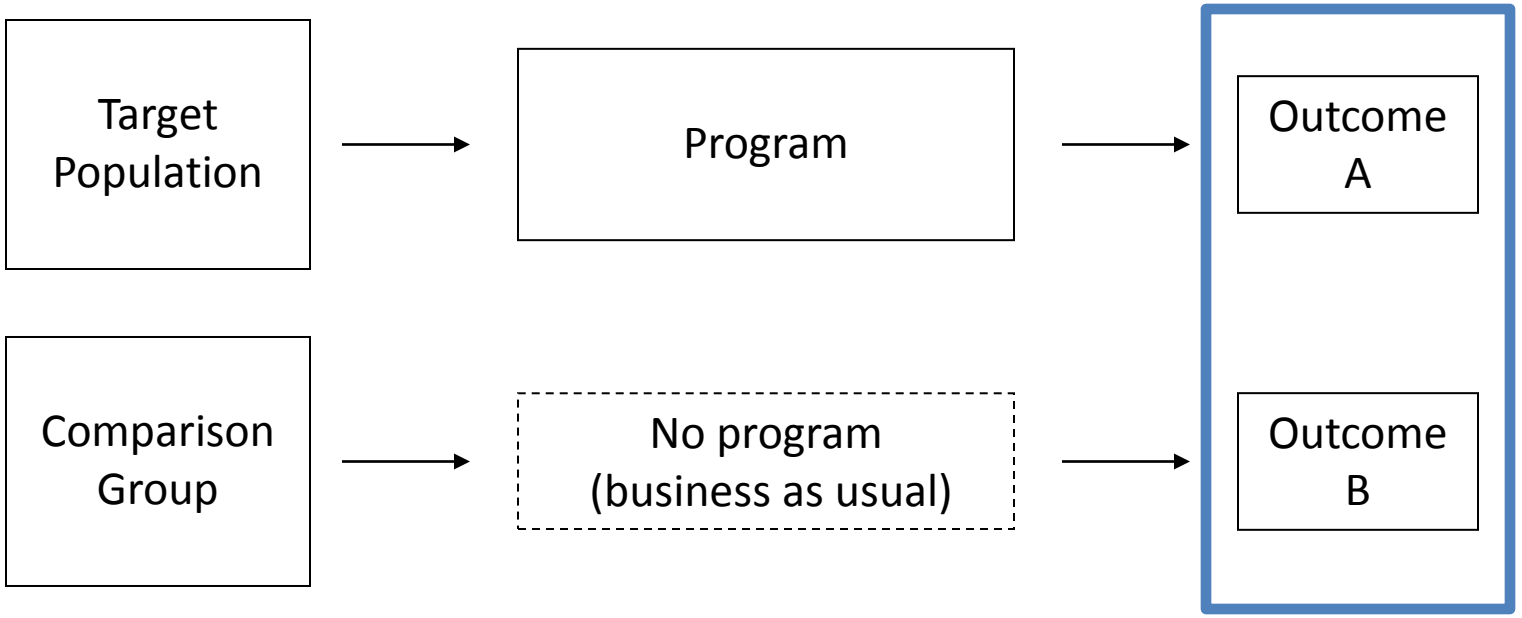
- Pre-Post Designs (non-experimental)
- Comparison groups (quasi-experimental)
- Randomized controlled trials (experimental)

Pre-Post Design

Group	GPA at Time 1	GPA at Time 2	Change
Participants	2.0	3.3	1.3

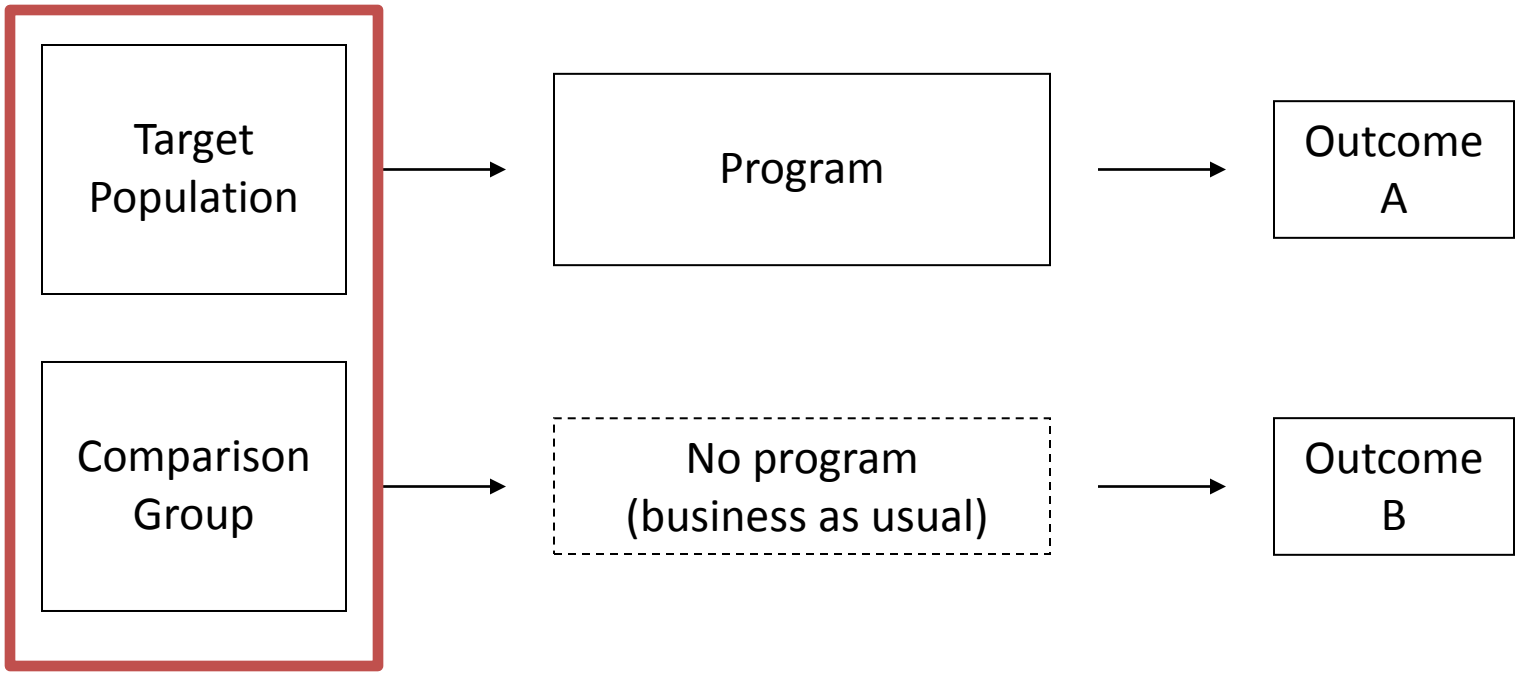
WOW!

Quasi-Experimental Design



Potential Impact = Outcome A - Outcome B

Quasi-Experimental Design

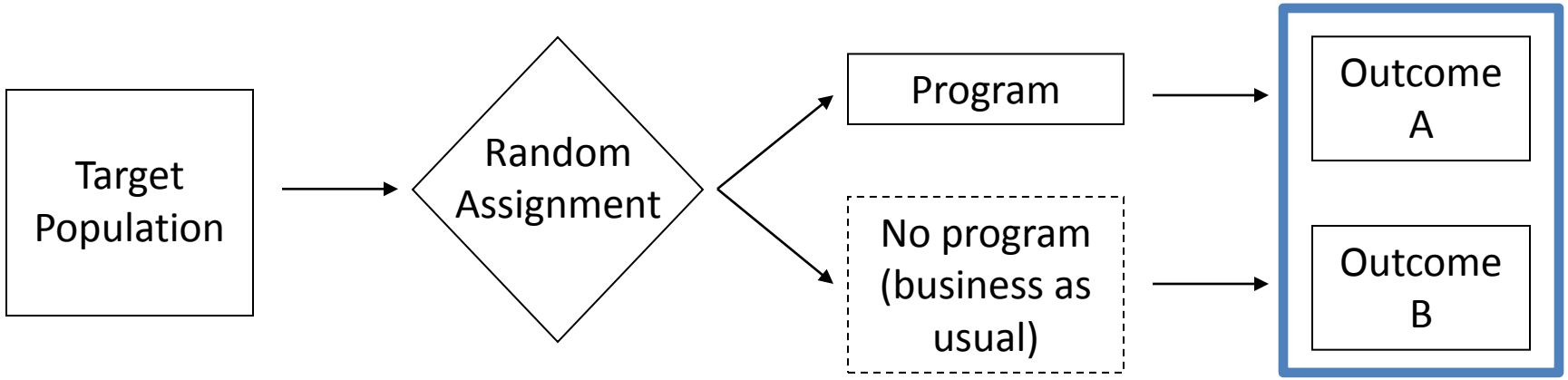


Quasi-Experimental Design

Target Population

Comparison Group

Random Assignment Design



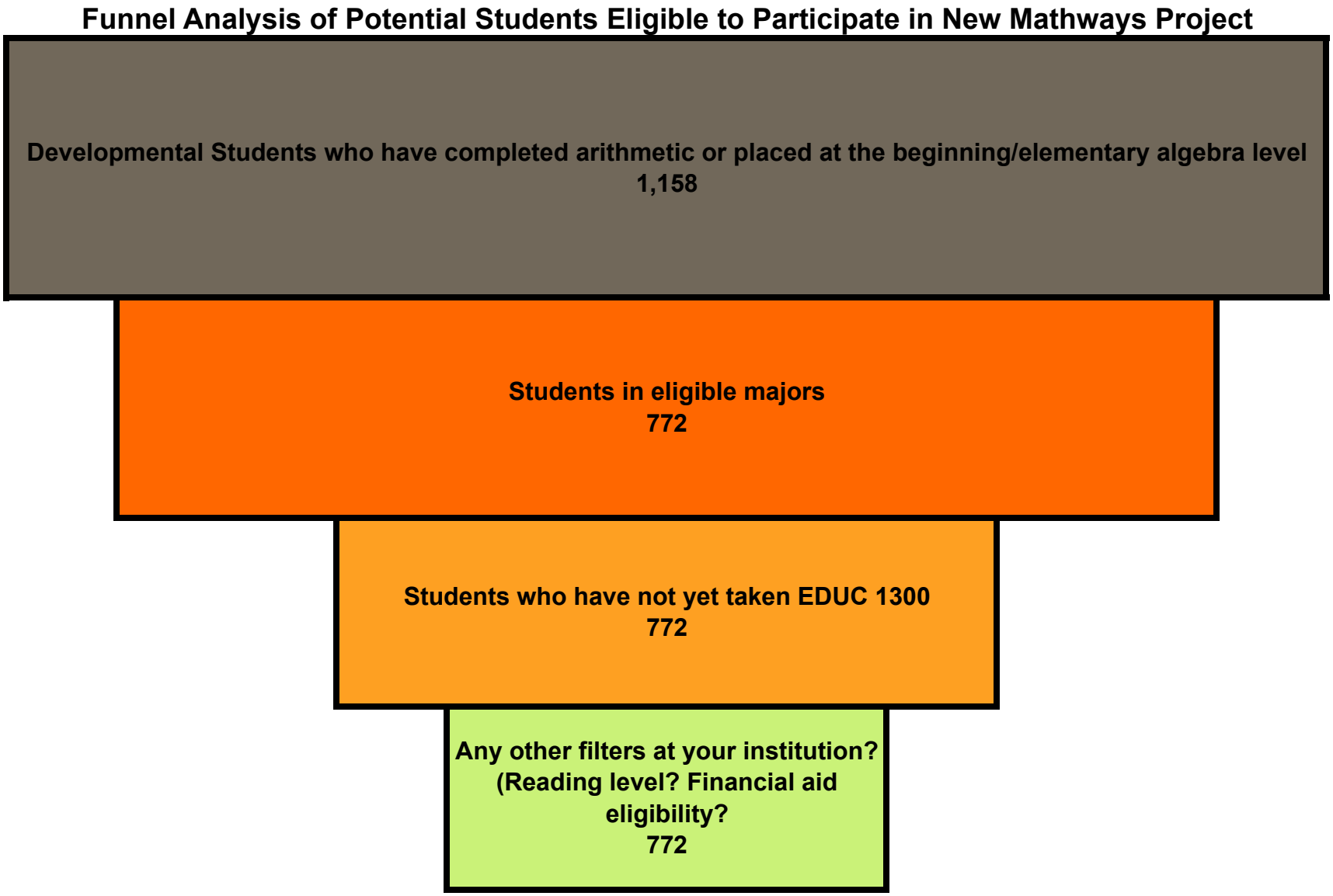
True Impact = Outcome A - Outcome B

RCT IMPLEMENTATION AND THE ROLE OF IR

Identifying the Target Population

- A successful RCT depends on:
  - Which students are recruited
  - How many students are recruited
- A “funnel analysis” is often helpful.

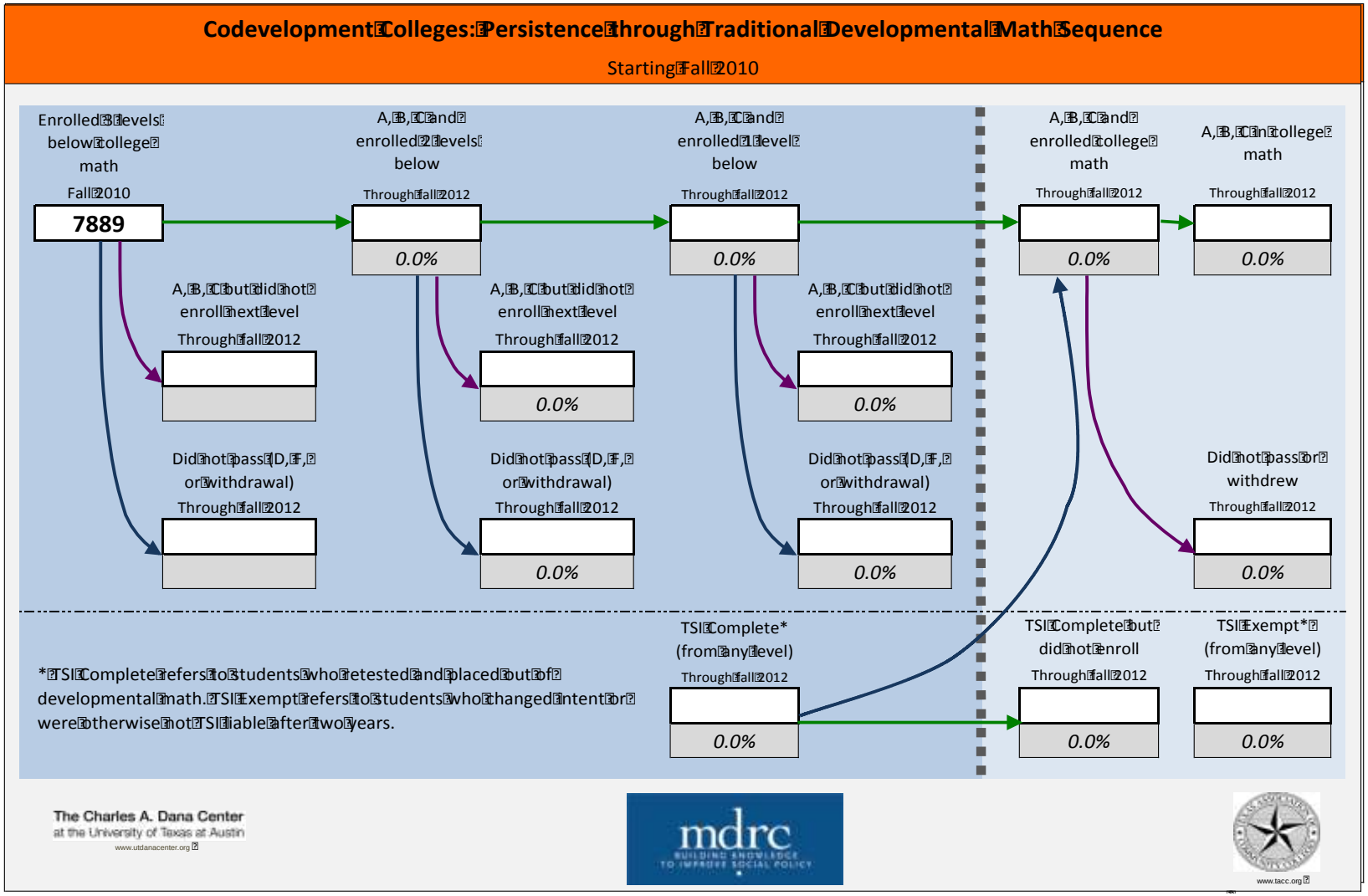
NMP: An Example Funnel Analysis



Recruiting Students for the Study

- Once the target population is defined
- NMP recruitment strategies have included:
  - Speaking to students in classes
  - Using social media and the internet
  - Hanging fliers in counseling and advising offices
  - Creating student testimonials
  - Including information in new student orientation

Persistence Tool: Students who Enrolled 3 Levels Down



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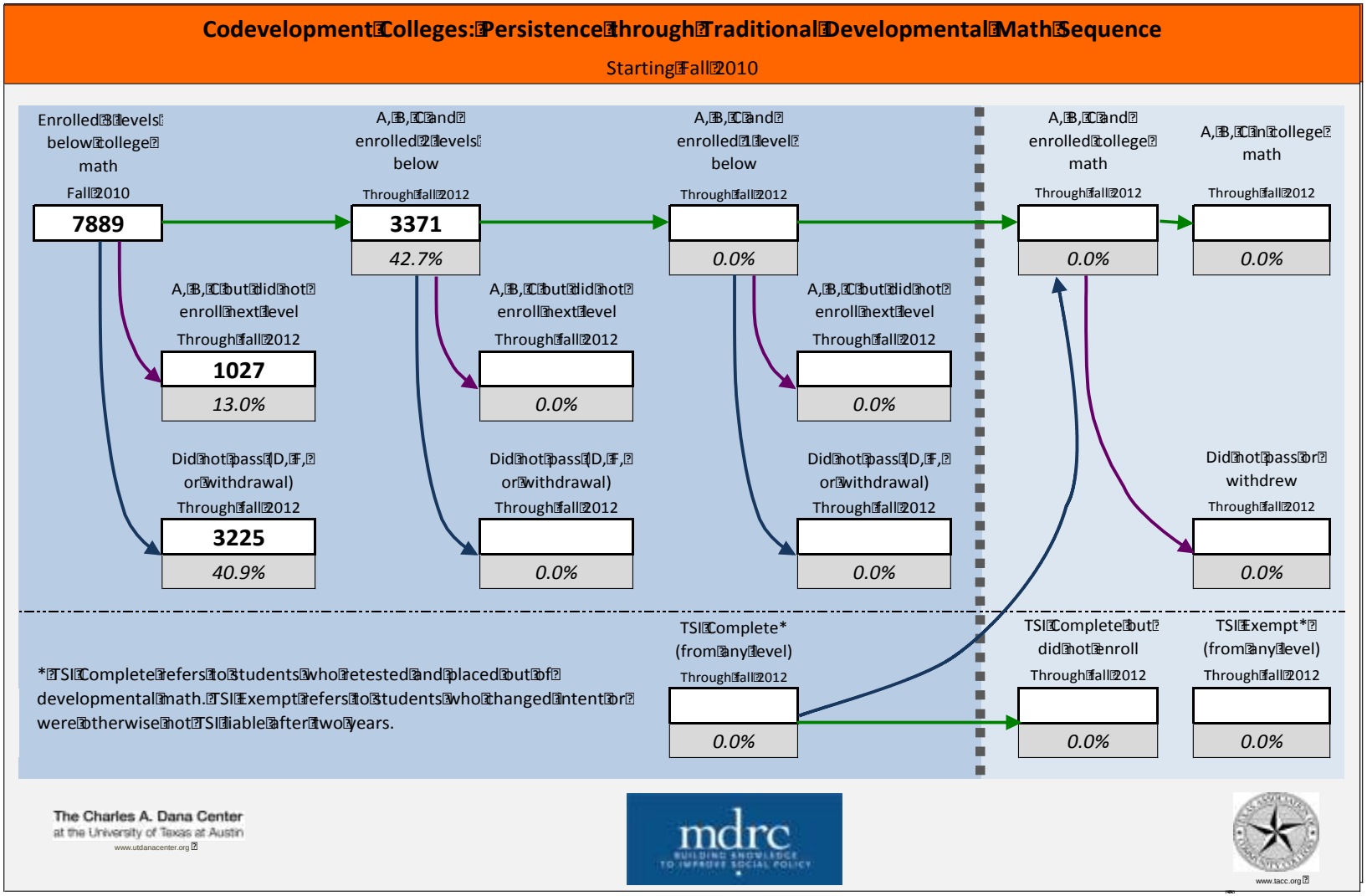

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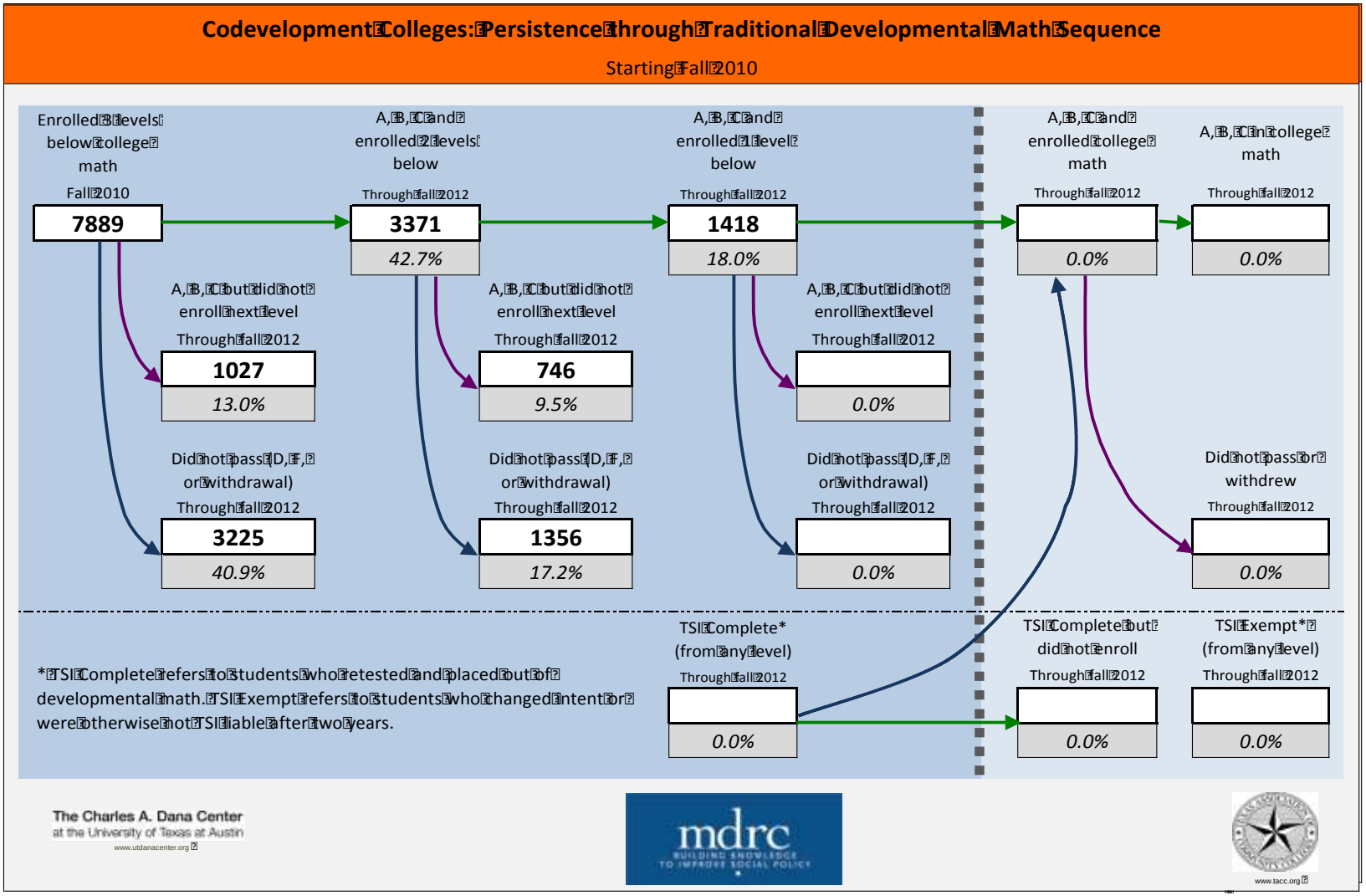

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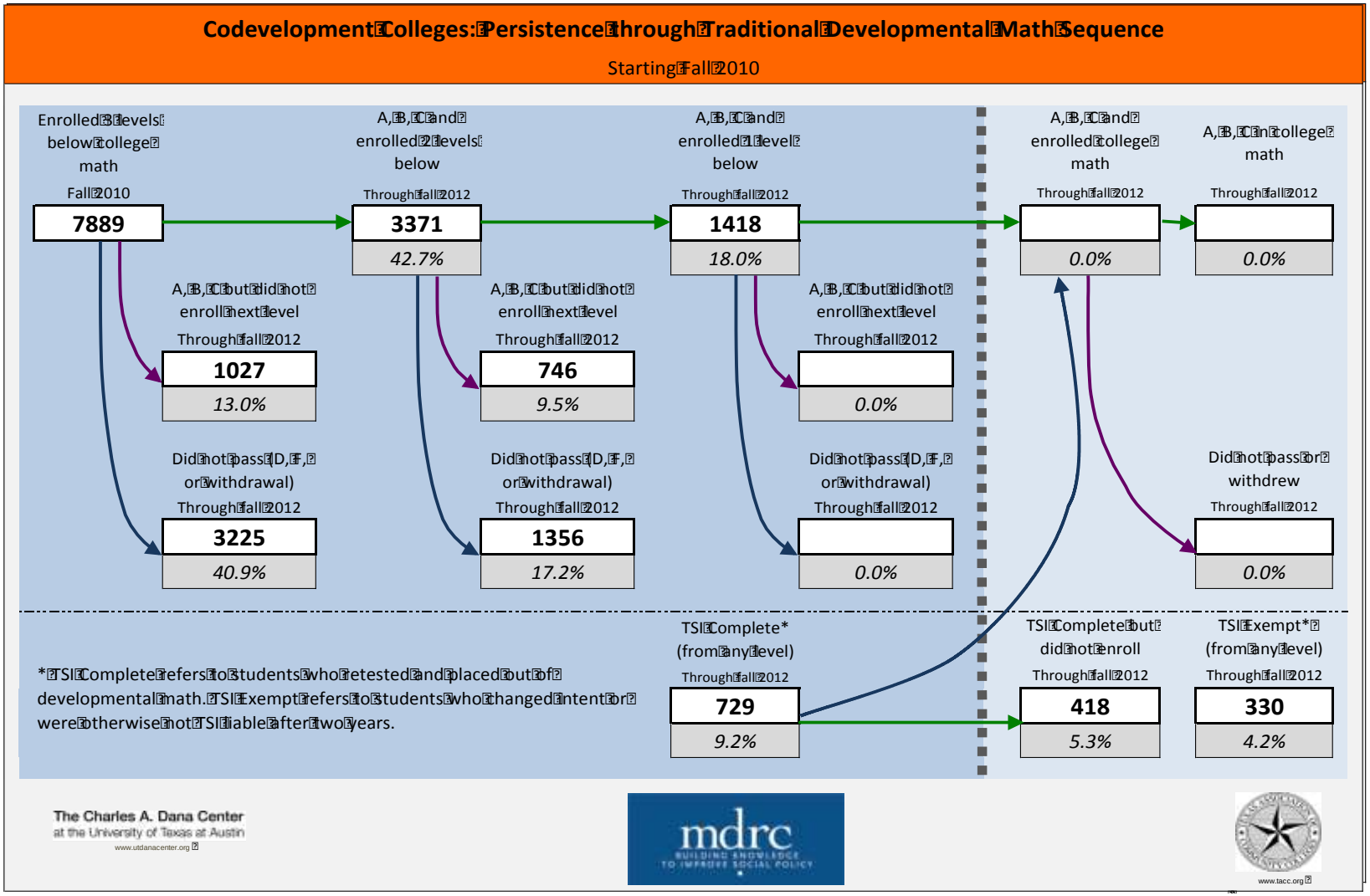

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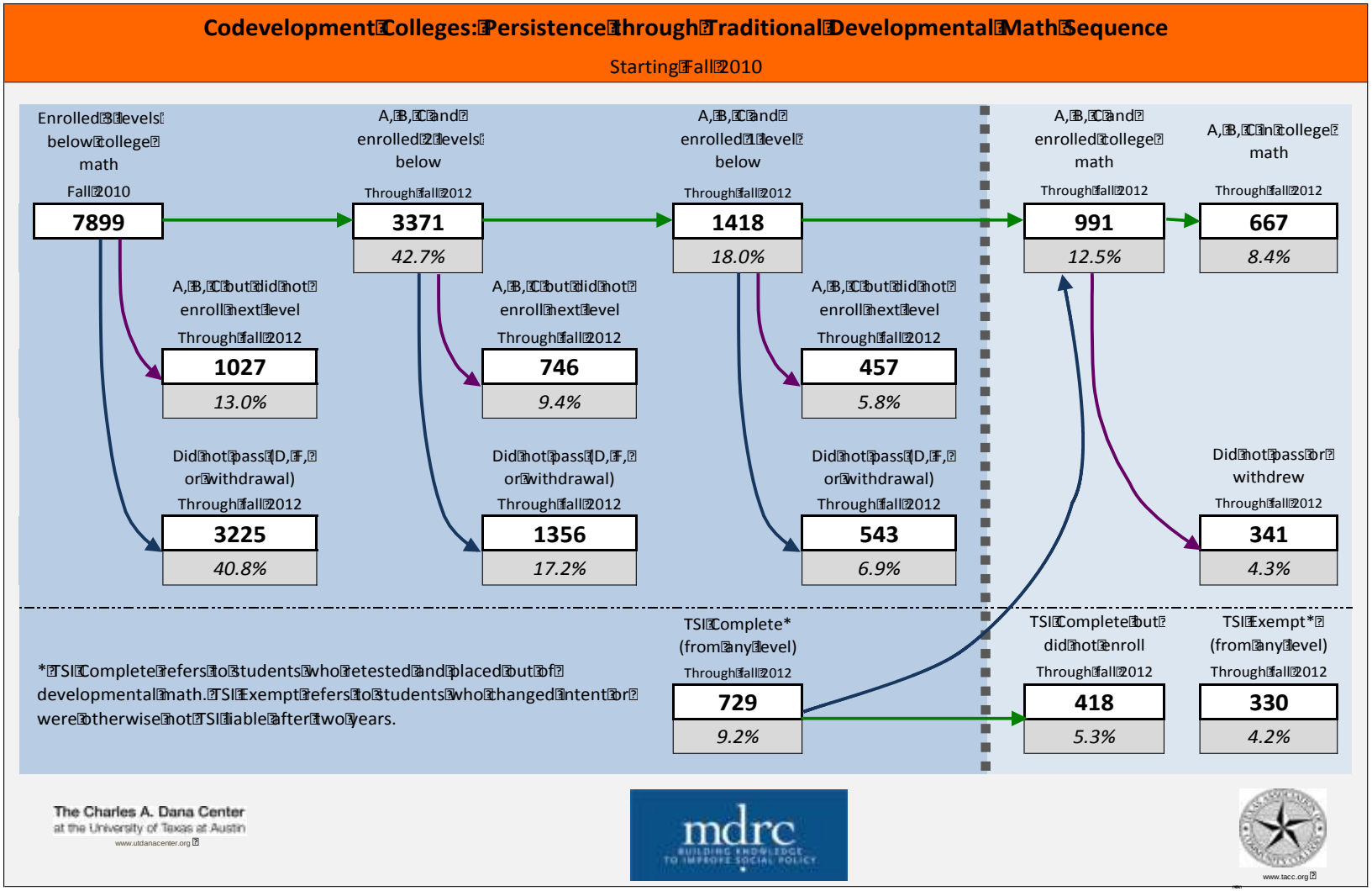

Conclusion

- Thanks for listening!
- We hope this presentation has been helpful.
- Any questions?

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