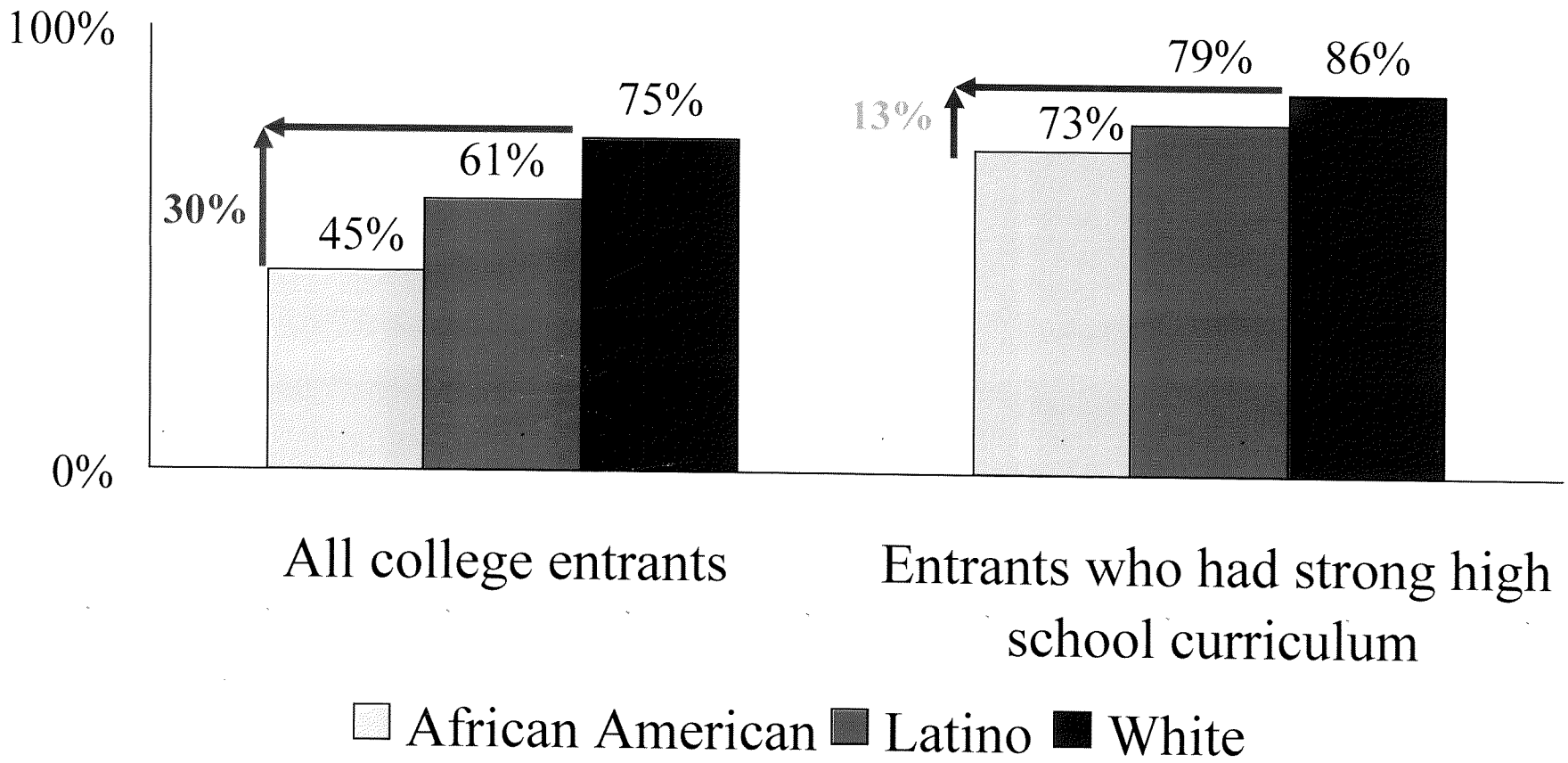
A strong high school curriculum* improves college completion and narrows gaps



*Completing at least Algebra II plus other courses.

Source: Adapted from Adelman, Clifford, U.S. Department of Education, *Answers in the Toolbox*, 1999.

The Adelman Study

- The strongest predictor of college completion is a rigorous and challenging high school course of study.
- Most significantly, the **higher the level of mathematics** completed in secondary school, the **stronger the continuing influence** on bachelor's degree completion.
- Completion of two experimental (lab) science courses is the second most significant factor in determining whether or not students will complete college.

Answers in the Tool Box *by Clifford Adelman, June 1999*

Remediation at 4-Year Colleges

Some remedial coursework	49.3%
No remedial coursework	50.7%

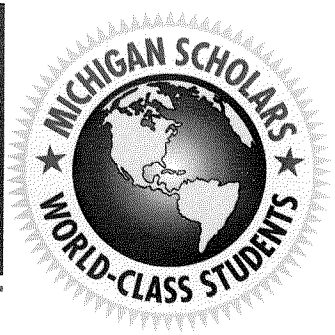
Answers in the Tool Box *by Clifford Adelman, June 1999*

Consequences of Remediation

- Students enrolled in any remedial coursework were six times less likely to earn a degree or certificate within six years.

- The more developmental and remedial high school coursework in higher education, the more strain on student, parent, higher education and state legislative budgets.

College Freshmen Not Returning for Sophomore Year



4-Year Colleges	26%
2-Year Colleges	45%

Tom Mortensen, Postsecondary Opportunity, No. 89, *November 1999*