Impact of the SAEP Bridging Year Programme

Improved matric results
In the last four years, bridging year graduates have improved their results on 85% of exams rewritten, by an average of 9.4 points per exam.

Tertiary enrolment and job placement
In the last five years:
- 83% of SAEP Bridging Year graduates (52 of 63) have enrolled in higher education. Nationwide, only 13% of black South Africans enrol in higher education.
- 95% of SAEP Bridging Year graduates (60 of 63) have accessed education, training or employment. Nationwide, fewer than 60% of young people aged 18-24 are studying or working.

Access to opportunity: Bridging Year graduates 2008–2012

![Graph showing education and employment outcomes]

Soft skills for university
In a survey of 28 tertiary students, respondents said:

- I feel comfortable with my peers at university.
- I easily communicate with lecturers at university.
- I have handed in all of my assignments on time.
- I can cope with the workload.
- My time at SAEP prepared me for university.

Tertiary retention and graduation
In the last three years:
- 85% of SAEP students enrolled in higher education (34 of 40) have graduated or are on track to graduate. Nationwide, only 42% of students who enrol in higher education will graduate.
**Soft skills**
Bridging year students report improved study skills, communication skills, confidence and self-esteem. They emerge with greater maturity, critical thinking skills, leadership qualities and broadened perspectives, and are better equipped to succeed in tertiary and employment.

**Leadership and service**
In recent years, graduates have volunteered with organisations including Ikamva Youth, the Treatment Action Campaign, the CPUT HIV/AIDS peer educator programme, the Mamelani Project, Sporting Chance, and SAEP’s Arts Programme and Early Childhood Development Programme.

**Careers**
Our alumni lead successful careers in a range of fields, including engineering, research, education, business, journalism, IT, the arts and the non-profit sector.

Since 2003, 110 young people have benefitted from the SAEP Bridging Year Programme.