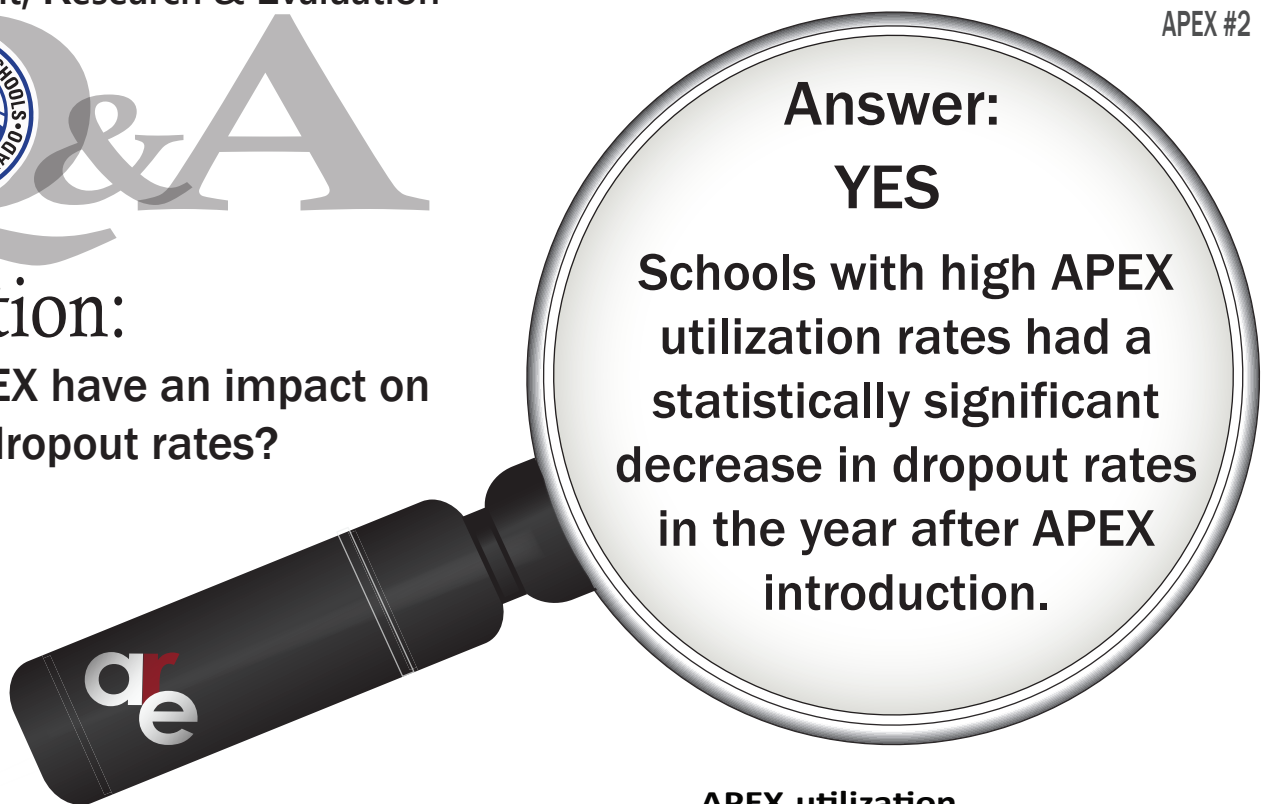




Question:

Does APEX have an impact on student dropout rates?



**Answer:
YES**

Schools with high APEX utilization rates had a statistically significant decrease in dropout rates in the year after APEX introduction.

School Name	Dropout rates [‡]					APEX utilization Rates			 Indicates a high utilization school (utilization rate consistently above district average). Introduction of APEX (2009-2010) * Difference between 2010 and 2011 is statistically significant at 0.05 level.
	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	
Abraham Lincoln High School	7%	7%	7%	4%*	4%	48%	60%	35%	
North High School	9%	6%	7%	3%*	1%	41%	52%	56%	
West High School	11%	11%	10%	6%*	6%	45%	44%	34%	
Montbello High School	9%	8%	9%	3%*	5%	52%	45%	64%	
East High School	4%	4%	2%	2%	1%	3%	14%	5%	
George Washington High School	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	7%	13%	6%	
John F. Kennedy High School	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%	15%	24%	31%	
South High School	5%	6%	3%	5%	4%	17%	17%	14%	
Thomas Jefferson High School	4%	4%	5%	4%	2%	18%	17%	13%	
Denver School of the Arts HS	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	
District	9%	9%	8%	8%	7%	18%	22%	18%	

The number of credits recovered is highest in the year after APEX was introduced. In subsequent years it drops and levels off, but remains above the years prior to APEX introduction (40% increase over a multi-year average - 4609.5 average total credits recovered from 2006-2009 vs. 6518.67 from 2010-2012). There are two plausible reasons for the sudden increase and subsequent leveling off: 1) APEX was more accessible than traditional credit recovery and, as such, picked up a substantial backlog of students needing credit recovery and 2) APEX structure became stricter in subsequent years.

+ The schools included were chosen because they are traditional schools with a large enough sample size.
 ‡ Dropout rate differs from CDE calculation. The calculation as shown is [unique students w/ dropout code]/[unique students]
 > APEX utilization rates were calculated as the percentage of unique students taking at least one (1) APEX course.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to expand the use of the APEX program for students who have previously failed a course. This will aid students who have fallen behind in catching up. There is evidence that it works in preventing dropout.
2. Continue to push for more **unit recovery** (use APEX to retake and pass the unit test) at school level to prevent students from failing the course.
3. School staff should help students select the appropriate APEX courses and course load to avoid having students concurrently enrolled in too many APEX courses without making meaningful progress in the majority of them. APEX courses generally have high attrition rates.