

MEMORANDUM



SCAN OF STATES' COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY INDICATORS.

July 24, 2015

“What indicators are states using to measure their students’ college- and career-readiness?”

This memorandum provides a summary of the indicators of college- and career-readiness used in nine states: Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Utah. This scan focuses on data from states' ESEA Flexibility Requests and the web sites of state departments of education.

Common among all nine states was the revision of state learning standards to reflect college- and career-readiness rigor. Some of these states adopted the Common Core State Standards into learning standards (IL, NV, NY, OR, PA, and UT), while other states revised their existing learning standards (FL, TX). Along with these new or revised learning standards, states also implemented aligned assessments. Most of these states revised existing state assessments, with only IL, NV, and OR adopting common assessments (NV and OR will use Smarter Balanced Assessments, and IL will begin using PARCC assessments in spring 2016).

Some of these states have also tied student performance on college- and career-aligned assessments to graduation requirements, with the rationale that passing designated assessments signals readiness. In NV, NY, and PA, students must demonstrate proficiency on state-designated assessments to be eligible for high school graduation (NV selected the ACT to fulfill this requirement, while NY and PA used state-developed exams). Starting with the class of 2022, students in NY will be required to pass the state's Common Core Regents Exams with designated “aspirational college- and career-ready” cut score in order to fulfill this graduation requirement.

FL high schools are also required to evaluate the college readiness of grade 11 students (through FL's Postsecondary Education Readiness Test – P.E.R.T., ACT, or SAT), though student performance on these exams is tied to college course enrollment. Students who achieve the minimum score for readiness and enroll in the FL College System within two years of testing are not required to retest or enroll in remediation. Students who do not achieve the minimum score for readiness must complete postsecondary preparatory instruction prior to graduating from high school.

For students in 3-8, some states (NY, OR, TX) aligned state assessments to correspond with college- and career-ready standards, and raised cut scores on state assessments to correlate with proficiency for college- and career-readiness. NY's Flexibility Request explains that the cut scores for grade 8 reading and math assessments were raised to correspond with a 75% probability of students scoring at college-ready level on the secondary Regents exams. Similarly, cut scores for the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) were also raised to correspond with college readiness requirements.

AZ, OR, and UT included information in their ESEA Flexibility Requests about college and career planning that students in grades 9-12 are to complete (for OR students, this plan must start no later than grade 7). In these states, students complete long-term plans that address course planning, exploring career interests, and selecting extracurricular activities that encourage students to examine different careers or college readiness. Students in AZ take the ACT EXPLORE, and their results are used to inform their plans. AZ also provides a K-12 readiness checklist on its DOE site, outlining the academic skills, life/self-management skills, financial and civic literacy skills, and postsecondary and career awareness that students are expected to have achieved by the end of each grade.

NV is currently working with school districts and IHEs to collect and link student data from the NV High School Proficiency Exam to student data from measures of college- and career-readiness (ACT, SAT, Accuplacer, WorkKeys, college placement exams).

	CCR STANDARDS	CCR ALIGNED STATE ASSESSMENTS	ASSESSMENT AS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT	COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING FOR STUDENTS
ARIZONA	AZ's College and Career Ready Standards for K-12.	AzMERIT testing: English Language Arts (ELA) and math for grades 3-8, End-of-Course exams in ELA 9, ELA 10, ELA 11, Alg I, Geom, and Alg II for high school students.		Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP) – students develop “action plans” for course selection, postsecondary decisions, and extracurricular activity choices. Students also take ACT EXPLORE, which helps identify students' skills and career interests.
FLORIDA	FL Postsecondary Readiness Competencies in English and Math.	Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) in reading, writing, and math. FL high schools required to evaluate college readiness of students in grade 11 through state-funded identified college placement assessment (P.E.R.T., ACT, or SAT).		
ILLINOIS	Common Core State Standards for ELA and math.	Previously the Illinois Standards Achievement Test, aligned with CCSS. For spring 2016, IL students will take PARCC assessments. Students also take ACT Plus Writing and		

NEVADA		ACT WorkKeys (Reading for Information, Applied, Mathematics, and Locating Information).	
	NV Academic Content Standards (CCSS).	Smarter Balanced Assessments, NV High School Proficiency Exam.	All students must take college- and career-readiness assessment in grade 11 to be eligible for graduation. For 2014-2015, NV chose ACT for this test requirement.
NEW YORK		Common Core Regents Exams (CCRE) for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II and ELA (last two will be administered in June 2016). Cut scores for grade 3-8 ELA and math assessments were raised to correlate with college- and career-readiness.	Class of 2017 first to be required to pass CCRE with a score of at least 65 to graduate. Class of 2022 first to be required to pass CCRE with "aspirational college- and career-ready score": students must score at least 75 on ELA Regents Exam and 80 on math Regents Exam, or attain Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
	NY State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards for ELA and math, Common Core K-12 Social Studies Framework.		
OREGON	Common Core State Standards.	Smarter Balanced assessments. Cut scores for OR Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) revised to be based on college readiness requirements and external benchmarks.	As part of OR Diploma, students must complete Education Plan and Profile, and Career-Related Learning Experiences (CRLE). Plan must start no later than grade 7 and provide a guide for student learning and progression through middle and high school. CRLEs are

PENNSYLVANIA	PA Common Core Standards (CCSS).	Keystone Exams: End-of-Course exams in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. Additional Keystone Exams are anticipated, pending funding.	Starting with class of 2017, students must demonstrate proficiency on Keystone Exams to graduate.	structured educational experiences in the school, workplace, and community.
	TEXAS	TX Essential Skills and Knowledge (TEKS).	Created State of TX Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), which includes End-of-Course testing. Reading and math assessments in grades 3-8 are linked to college- and career-readiness performance standards.	
UTAH	UT Core Standards (CCSS).	Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE).		Students complete College and Career Plan, which includes taking career assessments, identifying classes that are related to career options, identifying extracurricular options, learning about college and career admissions processes, and transition between grade levels.