



The Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Act

Sample Policy



REDEFINING READY! IS ENDORSED BY:



Overview

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, as of May 2015, 33 states had adopted a definition of college and career readiness. The definitions are promulgated either through the state legislature, state education agency or Governor's office. Each state defines college and career readiness differently.

The Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Act is inspired by the Redefining Ready! national campaign launch by AASA, The School Superintendents Association. Redefining Ready! is endorsed by the Consortium for School Networking, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Superintendents Roundtable and Phi Delta Kappa International. Launched in February 2016, Redefining Ready! proposes a new definition of college, career and life readiness that specifically looks at the metrics that indicate whether or not a student is ready for college or to enter the workforce upon graduation from high school.

Career Ready Indicators

Students are **Career Ready** if they have identified a career interest and meet two of the behavioral and experiential benchmarks listed below. In addition, students entering the military upon graduation must meet the passing scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for each branch of the military.

Career Cluster Identified and **two** or more of the following benchmarks:

- 90% Attendance
- 25 hours of Community Service
- Workplace Learning Experience
- Industry Credential
- Dual Credit Career Pathway Course
- Two or more organized Co-Curricular Activities

College Ready Indicators

Students are **College Ready** if they meet either the academic or standardized testing benchmarks listed below.

GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and **one** or more of the following benchmarks:

- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C)
- Dual Credit College English and/or Math (A, B or C)
- College Developmental/Remedial English and/or Math (A, B or C)
- Algebra II (A, B or C)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)
- College Readiness Placement Assessment*

* Standardized Test benchmarks (minimum score)

SAT Exam: Math (TBD) | Reading and Writing (TBD)

ACT Exam: English (18) | Reading (22) | Science (23) | Math (22)

Additional Factors that Contribute to College Success

Earning As, Bs, Cs; FAFSA Completion; Enrollment in career pathway course sequence; College Academic Advising; Participation in College Bound Bridge Programs; Senior year math class; Completion of a math class after Algebra II

This sample policy was developed to assist states in developing the indicators used to determine whether or not their students are ready for college and careers and can be applied to their individual state definition of college and career readiness. Since there is tremendous variance in how legislation is crafted across the United States, this sample policy can be adapted to meet the needs of individual states.

The Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Act

Summary: An Act concerning education. Allows for local education agencies to use specific research-based indicators to determine the college and career readiness of secondary school students. Meets one of the state accountability system requirements under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act by allowing the state to use the percentage of students ready for college and careers to serve as an additional indicator of school quality. Requires data on the most recent graduating class to be reported to the state education agency annually and be publicly posted on the local education agency and state education agency websites. Encourages the state education agency to provide support and professional development for local education agencies to implement these multiple measurements of college and career readiness within their local education agencies. Establishes October as Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Month. Effective immediately.

Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Act

An Act concerning education.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of _____, represented in the _____.

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Act.

Section 2. Findings, Declarations

WHEREAS, the globalization of our economy requires a skilled workforce that is ready to meet the demands of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that by 2018, two-thirds of all jobs will require some type of post-secondary training; and

WHEREAS, schools have a profound responsibility to ensure that our nation's 50 million students are college ready, career ready and life ready; and

WHEREAS, [state] has been supportive of initiatives that increase college and career readiness among its students; and

WHEREAS, the authorization of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act gives more control to states and local school districts regarding student assessment; and

WHEREAS, standardized test scores, which have traditionally been used as the sole indicator of college and career readiness, fail to portray a comprehensive picture of student potential; and

WHEREAS, elementary and middle school students are engaged in a world that was hard to imagine a decade ago and need to be prepared with 21st century skills to participate in a future that they will help create; and

WHEREAS, according to ACT, out of 1.9 million test takers, only 40 percent of the 2015 high school graduating class across the United States was deemed college ready by meeting three or four of the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks and only 41.9 percent of the class of 2015 met the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark; and

WHEREAS, in [state) only [##] percent of the Class of 2015 met [three or four of the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks or the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark]; and

WHEREAS, a broader multi-measure approach indicates that [##] percent of these [state] graduates are ready for college-level coursework and [##] percent of seniors intend to go on to college and many more demonstrate success in the work force; and

WHEREAS, the existing one-score-fits-all approach is unfair to 21st century students; and

WHEREAS, Redefining Ready! proposes new research-based metrics and indicators to more authentically and appropriately assess and demonstrate high school graduates' readiness to survive and thrive in their futures; and

WHEREAS, the new readiness indicators reflect and give credibility to many of [state's] successful programs like the [program names].

WHEREAS, these readiness indicators will help promote a skilled workforce – high school graduates who will add to [state's] economy, not drain from it.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the [state house or senate] supports the framework of multiple readiness indicators proposed in the Redefining Ready! campaign to more accurately assess students' readiness to succeed in college, career and life.

Section 3. Definitions

State Education Agency - A public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either control or direction of, or to perform a service as a public elementary school or secondary school in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a state, or for a combination of school districts or counties.

Local Education Agency - A public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision of a State, or for a combination of school districts or counties that is recognized in a state as an administrative agency for its public elementary schools or secondary schools.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) - The federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act passed and signed into law in 2015.

State Accountability System - System used to ensure schools are making annual progress on defined goals.

School Quality - The Every Student Succeeds Act provides flexibility for states to define and add a school quality indicator to their state accountability system.

Grade Point Average (GPA) - The cumulative score students earn while taking courses.

Advanced Placement Exam (AP) - College level examination developed by The College Board and used to determine if a student has mastered the content and earned a score of 3, 4 or 5, which could allow the student to earn college credit.

Advanced Placement Course (AP) – A college level course developed by The College Board and given to students in secondary school.

Dual Credit Course - A dual credit course typically given on a secondary school campus and taught by secondary school faculty members who are affiliated with a post-secondary institution. A student simultaneously earns credit for their secondary school and post-secondary institution.

Algebra II - Secondary school level math course with content that typically includes linear equations, inequalities, graphs, matrices, polynomials and radical expressions, quadratic equations, functions, exponential and logarithmic expressions, sequences and series, probability and trigonometry.

International Baccalaureate - An internationally recognized secondary school diploma recognized and accepted by post-secondary institutions.

SAT – College admissions exam developed by The College Board.

ACT - College admissions exam developed by ACT, Inc.

Career Cluster - There are 16 national career clusters with several different career pathways within each cluster for a total of 79 possible career pathways. A career cluster contains a sequence of career pathway courses and industry experiences.

Attendance - Amount of time a student has attended school.

Community Service - Community-based activity where students volunteer their time in the service of others.

Workplace Learning Experience - Internship, externship or similar experience where students are exposed to a career while still in secondary school.

Industry Credential - A professional certification that students earn that would allow the individual to perform the duties associated with the credential.

Dual Credit Career Pathway Course - A dual credit course aligned to the national career clusters.

Co-Curricular Activity - Athletics, activities and clubs that students participate in before or after their regular school day.

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) - A multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military.

Section 4. Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Indicators

In order to determine whether or not a student is considered college ready, the secondary school shall use a GPA of 2.8 and one of the following indicators:

The student earns a 3 or better on an Advanced Placement examination; a passing grade of an A, B, or C in an Advanced Placement course, dual credit course, or Algebra II course; a 4 or better on an International Baccalaureate examination; the minimum benchmark college readiness score on the ACT or SAT as determined each year by ACT or SAT.

In order to determine whether or not a student is considered career ready, the secondary school shall use the following indicators:

The student has identified a career cluster and meets two of the following behavioral or experiential indicators during the student's enrollment at the secondary school: 90% attendance; 25 hours of community service; completion of a workplace learning experience; an industry credential; career pathway course with a passing grade of A, B or C; participation in two or more co-curricular activities; a passing score on the ASVAB for each branch of the military.

Section 5. Implementation

The state education agency will provide support and professional development for local education agencies to implement these multiple measurements of college and career readiness within their local education agencies.

The data on the most recent graduating class of each local education agency shall be reported to the state education agency annually and be publicly posted on the local education agency and state education agency websites.

The state of _____ will also officially recognize October as Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Month and direct the state education agency to create an annual public awareness campaign about these indicators.

Section 6. Effective Date

This Act takes effect upon becoming law.