



ARKANSAS



Arkansas has addressed eight of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state. Only eight other states can match that record and only six states exceed it.

Arkansas has in place three of the four anchor policies designed to increase high school graduates' preparation for college and was an early leader in requiring all high schools to offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses. In addition, it is one of only 18 states that has the same course requirements for both high school graduation and admission to college.

Arkansas has in place three of the four higher education policies with statewide policies for both admission to higher education institutions and remedial education. It also has implemented bridge policies to allow high schools and colleges to share student-level data and has adopted a college and career readiness definition.

POLICY REVIEW	ARKANSAS	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES Yes - AP or IB course offerings mandatory	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES , PARCC; Other	14 - SBAC 11 - PARCC 18 - ACT 4 - SAT 10 - state developed 14 - end-of-course
3. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS H.S. course requirements match statewide college admissions	YES Statewide	18 states match courses Including 6 states that align all courses and 12 states that align all courses but foreign language
4. K-12 ACCOUNTABILITY CCR is indicator in system	NO	24 states use CCR to determine performance
5. ADMISSION STANDARDS Statewide or systemwide	YES Statewide	28 - common admission standards 15 - systemwide 13 - statewide
6. REMEDIAL AND PLACEMENT POLICIES Statewide or systemwide remedial policies Statewide or systemwide placement policies	YES Statewide Statewide	27 - both remedial and placement policies 39 - remedial policies 27 - placement policies
7. TRANSFER (3 OUT OF 4 POLICIES) Transferable core of lower-division courses Common course numbering Guaranteed transfer of associate degree Credit by assessment	YES Yes Yes Yes No	23 have at least 3 of the following policies: 36 - transferable core 16 - Common course numbering 36 - guaranteed transfer of associate degrees 16 - credit by assessment
8. HIGHER-ED ACCOUNTABILITY (ALL 3) Statewide attainment goals Completion or attainment goals in master plan Performance-funding model and metrics	NO No No Yes, Retention; Persistence; Graduation	19 have all 3 of the following policies: 26 states have a statewide attainment goal 36 states have completion or attainment goal in master plan 32 states have performance-funding
9. STATEWIDE CCR DEFINITION	YES	32 states + D.C. have CCR definition
10. P-20 DATA High school feedback report annually	YES Yes	50 states + D.C. have data system 42 states + D.C. have feedback report
TOTAL	8 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

In the early 2000s, Arkansas led the nation in becoming one of the first states that required high schools to offer AP courses in English language arts, math, science and social studies. Today, Arkansas is one of 25 states that requires all districts to offer Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or dual enrollment coursework, and one of only four states that requires all districts to offer two or more of these advanced-course options.

Arkansas required teachers to receive AP course training and required districts to offer a pre-AP course to make sure students were prepared for the more rigorous classes. As a result, Arkansas was recognized in 2009 by the National Governors Association for having uniform access for students to AP courses across the state, addressing a problem faced by many states.

Arkansas also has adopted common statewide remedial and course placement policies. In doing so, the state is able to send a consistent message about college readiness expectations, prompt early interventions in high school and better assist students who arrive on campus unprepared.

CONSIDERATIONS

Arkansas should consider adding college and career readiness in its accountability system. Clearly establishing college and career readiness indicators for determining school performance and reporting on these measures in school report cards would strengthen this work. Arkansas also should consider setting specific education attainment goals as a strategy to connect postsecondary credentials and workforce needs. The attainment goals could be incorporated into the state's higher education master plan.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

College and Career Readiness Initiative, *Joint Agreement on Virginia's College and Career Ready Mathematics and English Performance Expectations*, Virginia Department of Education, http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/college_career_readiness/expectations/joint_agreement.pdf.

Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements Through 2020, Georgetown Public Policy Institute, <https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/tll0zkxt0puz45hu21g6>.

Illinois – Setting college attainment goals

In 2012, Gov. Pat Quinn declared his support for the **60 X 25** goal, which states that 60 percent of adults in Illinois will have a college degree, an associate degree or a career certificate by 2025. The 60 X 25 plan is an initiative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). This plan stems from Lumina Foundation's strategic plan, which provides multiple strategies for reaching the goal of a 60 percent attainment rate across the United States. The Public Agenda Task Force adopted Illinois' Public Agenda for College and Career Success in 2008. ISAC supported this agenda and focused on its "Big Goal" of 60 percent attainment. The agenda highlights four goals: increase educational attainment, improve college affordability, strengthen workforce development and link research and innovation to economic growth.

Wisconsin – Inclusive standards process

The state approved **Act 20 2013** that requires the adoption of college and career readiness standards. It requires Wisconsin to inform the adoption by engaging the entire education community including elementary and secondary school teachers and higher education instructors and experts. The goal is to strengthen the connection between high schools and postsecondary schools, better defining what it means for students to be college and career ready.