

BLUEPRINT FOR COLLEGE READINESS STATE PROFILE



COLORADO



Colorado has addressed nine of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state. It has developed three of the four high school anchor policies and is one of 24 states that has clearly outlined college readiness guidelines as part of its school accountability reports.

Colorado also has programs to address all four college benchmarks. It is one of 21 states that has statewide standards for remedial education and testing to determine which courses are appropriate. Colorado is also one of 13 states with statewide admission requirements for four-year colleges.

Both bridge policies have been addressed. It is one of 42 states that provides feedback reports to high schools on how well their graduates have performed in college as part of P-20 data systems.

POLICY REVIEW	COLORADO	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES No	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES , PARCC; ACT	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	NO , policies exist but not aligned	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	YES	24 states use CCR to determine performance
5. ADMISSION STANDARDS Statewide or systemwide	YES Statewide GPA; Assessments; High school coursework; Class rank; Index	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 Partial	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	YES Yes Yes Yes, 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	9 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

Colorado is a good example of a state that has developed college admission requirements statewide. Effective in fall 2020, admission standards will no longer include high school coursework. The new policy emphasizes college readiness as measured by multiple indicators. Colorado's previous policy included high school coursework, GPA, assessment scores, index score and class rank as minimum requirements for admission to four-year public institutions.

The new admission requirements replace high school coursework with course rigor, which is fostering collaboration between secondary and postsecondary faculty on academic expectations for students. This policy aligns more clearly with the state's high school graduation requirements and remedial education policy. With the adoption of these new requirements, Colorado is incorporating alignment between high schools and postsecondary institutions.

The state also is a model in developing guarantees on transferring associate degrees from community colleges to four-year institutions and transferring lower-level course credits from one public college to another. This is important as about one-third of college students transfer at least once between colleges.

CONSIDERATIONS

Colorado should continue to ensure the forthcoming statewide minimum high school graduation guidelines are in step with the postsecondary and workforce readiness definition, as well as the forthcoming higher education admission policies. Though Colorado is one of three states without such requirements in place this year, the state has adopted new guidelines for the fall of 2020.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

Competency-Based Education, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), <http://www.cael.org/what-we-do/competency-based-education>.

When Success is the Only Option: Designing Competency-Based Pathways for Next Generation Learning, <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/csd6174.pdf>.

Washington – Collaboration of high school and college systems

The State Board of Education and the Washington Student Achievement Council met in 2010 to align the high school graduation requirements and the statewide admission requirements. They established the **College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs)**.

The CADRs provide high school students with a guideline of what colleges will, at a minimum, require for students to be admitted to four-year public institutions. Aligning the two sets of requirements helps students develop an academic plan early in their high school careers.

South Dakota – Using multiple measures

South Dakota's high school graduation requirements and statewide higher education admission policies provide a prime example of competency-based proficiency for course requirements. A provision in the high school graduation requirements policy (**S.D. Admin. R. 24:43:11:09**) provides course equivalency exam exceptions for students in lieu of course requirements.

Similarly, the statewide higher education admission policy provides alternate opportunities to meet the minimum course requirements beyond seat time. Within each subject area, students can receive credit by achieving a specific benchmark on standardized assessments such as ACT or SAT or on end-of-course exams such as Advanced Placement tests.