

# BLUEPRINT FOR COLLEGE READINESS STATE PROFILE



# IOWA



Iowa has addressed four of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state.

Among high school anchor policies, it has put in place the Iowa Core standards and requires all districts statewide to offer Advanced Placement (AP) classes. The state has addressed one of the four college anchor policies. It is one of 15 states that has systemwide admission requirements for its four-year public colleges.

Iowa has in place programs for both bridge policies — a college and career readiness definition and a statewide P-20 data system.

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

## STRENGTHS

Iowa has adopted and is implementing the Iowa Core standards to address the college and career readiness needs of its high school graduates. Iowa has set college attainment goals and developed a performance-based funding system. These policies can help the state respond to workforce demands and hold institutions accountable for improving student success.

It has a clear definition of what it means for a student to be college and career ready. It also has developed a P-20 data pipeline that is able to provide student-level data from preschool to entry into the workforce that is uniform and shared by state agencies. Iowa is capable of sharing student-level data across state agencies and producing high school feedback reports.

Iowa's work is strengthened by the state's higher education admission policies. In addition, one accountability measure in place for higher education is a performance-based funding model with metrics including persistence and graduation rates.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Iowa should look at establishing statewide remedial education policies. Nearly 30 states have statewide or postsecondary systemwide remedial and course placement policies.

The state also should work toward improving its higher education transfer policies. Three transfer policies to pursue include: creating a transferable core of lower-division courses, guaranteeing the transfer of associate degrees and creating a Common course numbering system. Since one-third of college students transfer at least once before graduation, according to national data, transfer policies are central to efforts to improve completion and attainment measures.

## RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

*Transferability of Postsecondary Credit Following Student Transfer or Coenrollment, Statistical Analysis Report*, National Center for Education Studies, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014163.pdf>.

*Developmental Strategies for College Readiness and Success*, Education Commission of the States, <http://www.ecs.org/docs/DevEdStrategies.pdf>.

### Louisiana – Comprehensive transfer policies

Louisiana was a leader in developing uniform transfer policies between community colleges and four-year institutions when it enacted **S.B. 285/Act 356** (2009). The law included a statewide policy implementing a core of transferable courses from two-year colleges, a Common course numbering system and a guaranteed transfer of an associate degree to a four-year baccalaureate program.

In addition, it gave priority admission to students with an associate degree and created a common college transcript that was consistent across all higher education institutions. As a result of the legislation, Louisiana educators created a central database of courses and alternatives that met the requirements for industry certifications, associate degrees and baccalaureate degrees.

### Indiana – Robust statewide remedial education

As a result of a 2010 resolution by the Indiana Commission on Higher Education, Ivy Tech Community College has become the primary provider of remedial education. Ivy Tech, which consists of 23 campuses, adopted a policy to use College Board's Accuplacer exam to evaluate the skills of first-time students and for course placement. The policy indicates that specified scores on other national assessments exempt students from the placement test and allow them to enroll in college-level courses. Campuses also can consider other factors to exempt students from the Accuplacer, including high school GPA and the type of diploma earned.