



ILLINOIS



Illinois has addressed five of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state and has made progress toward meeting a sixth. The state has addressed two of the four high school anchor policies. It has adopted the Common Core State Standards and participated in the development of the PARCC assessments.

The state has met one of the four college anchor policies by setting college attainment goals and adopting a performance-based funding system. The state has met both bridge anchor policies, including the adoption of a statewide college and career readiness definition and establishment of a P-20 data system that allows student-level data to be shared across state agencies.

POLICY REVIEW	ILLINOIS	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES No	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES , PARCC; ACT; 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	NO 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
4. K-12 ACCOUNTABILITY CCR is indicator in system	NO	24 states use CCR to determine performance
5. ADMISSION STANDARDS Statewide or systemwide	NO	28 – common admission standards 15 – systemwide 13 – statewide
6. REMEDIAL AND PLACEMENT POLICIES Statewide or systemwide remedial policies Statewide or systemwide placement policies	NO 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	NO Partial No Partial 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	YES Yes 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
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	5 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

Illinois is a leader in higher education accountability by setting clear goals on college attainment. In 2012, Gov. Pat Quinn declared his support for the 60 x 20 goal, which aims for 60 percent of adults in Illinois to have a college degree, an associate degree or a career certificate by 2020. The state also identifies four related goals: increase educational attainment, improve college affordability, strengthen workforce development and link research and innovation to economic growth.

Illinois high schools administer end-of-course PARCC English language arts and math assessments. It is one of three states that provides juniors an opportunity to take either the ACT or WorkKeys assessments. The state has a clear definition of college and career readiness to reinforce and support the state's implementation of these policies.

The state's P-20 data pipeline provides information about students as they move through their education and into the workforce. The data is useful to both the state and local audiences, particularly through the use of feedback reports with important information about graduates as they go to college (e.g., retention rates, remedial education needs and performance).

CONSIDERATIONS

Illinois' school report cards were recognized by ECS as exemplary in 2014. However, Illinois should consider statutorily establishing similar college and career readiness measures in its formula for calculating school performance. Currently, the state's robust set of college and career readiness metrics appear to be used only in school report cards — not in assessing school performance.

The state also should continue its work toward strengthening transfer policies between its public colleges. Participation in the Illinois Articulation Initiative is voluntary. Without policy in statute, the state cannot enforce compliance with transfer policy. For many students, the ability to change campuses and keep earned credits impacts their likelihood of earning a degree.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

The Community College Route to the Bachelor's Degree, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, <http://epa.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/02/28/0162373714521865>.

State Policies to Improve Student Transfer, January 2013, <http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/student-transfer.pdf>

Kentucky – School performance rooted in college and career readiness

In 2009, the commonwealth passed S.B. 1, creating the **Unbridled Learning: College/Career-Ready for All** program. The program emphasizes accountability with a focus on the end goal — college completion. It details what students should learn, what will be tested, how subjects will be tested, when tests are given and lays out how the elements are incorporated into public school accountability. Rooting an accountability system in college and career readiness sends a strong message to students, schools and communities.

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 identifying 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.