

BLUEPRINT FOR COLLEGE READINESS STATE PROFILE



KANSAS



Kansas has addressed eight of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state.

It has developed strategies to implement three of the four high school anchor policies. It is one of six states with complete alignment of course requirements for high school graduation and college admission.

The state has addressed three of the four college anchor policies and is making progress toward another. It is one of 15 states with systemwide, uniform requirements for admission to four-year colleges and has developed comprehensive accountability policies for higher education.

POLICY REVIEW	KANSAS	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES No	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES , State-developed/ contracted	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	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 Systemwide (single system) GPA; Assessments; High school coursework; Class rank	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	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, Retention; 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

Kansas implemented performance-based funding through legislation in 2005. The Performance Agreement Model includes performance measures for different types of institutions based on their mission. Measures spanning across all institutions include retention, degrees awarded and graduation rates. Research and comprehensive universities also include performance on assessments and degrees or certificates awarded in STEM fields. Institutions are allowed to set three indicators specific to their college or university. These indicators support Foresight 2020, the 10-year strategic agenda set by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Kansas also is one of six states that has completely aligned high school graduation course requirements with college admission course requirements. This creates transparency between high schools and higher education institutions on college readiness standards and can increase the number of high school graduates attending college.

CONSIDERATIONS

Kansas should consider including barometers of college and career readiness in its school report cards and in determining school performance. Measures commonly used by states include dual enrollment, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate participation and scores, ACT/SAT results, postsecondary participation rates, industry certifications earned and college remediation rates. The public increasingly wants to know how students are progressing toward meeting benchmarks, and statewide accountability systems can help in creation of reporting mechanisms.

Kansas may consider further developing its statewide transfer policies by guaranteeing the transfer of lower-division courses and implementing a clear, uniform Common course numbering system so that students better understand which courses are equivalent across campuses.

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>.

Wisconsin – Stakeholder engagement

Wisconsin's **Act 20** enacted in 2013 mandates the development and adoption of college and career readiness standards by seeking information from a broad range of sources, including elementary and secondary teachers, instructors and experts from postsecondary institutions. This approach attempts to strengthen the connection between secondary and postsecondary schools, better communicating what it means for students to be college and career ready.

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.