



MASSACHUSETTS



Massachusetts has addressed six of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the commonwealth. It has addressed one (plus a partial) of the four high school anchor policies and is one of three states without statewide high school graduation requirements. However, the commonwealth has implemented MassCore, a recommended program of study. MassCore not only includes a rigorous set of courses but encourages students to complete as many additional learning opportunities as possible, including dual enrollment courses and service-learning. The commonwealth has in place programs to address three of the four college anchor policies. It is one of 13 states with statewide college admission standards and one of 35 states with standards for transfer of credits and degrees between two-year and four-year colleges. It also developed a statewide program for remedial education for high school graduates entering college. It has addressed both of the bridge policies aimed at easing the transition from high school to college.

POLICY REVIEW	MASSACHUSETTS	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES No	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	PARTIAL , PARCC	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 H.S. grad. requirements	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 GPA; Assessments; High school coursework	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	NO Yes No 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	YES Yes Yes Yes, Remedial course completion; 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	6 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

Massachusetts adopted a shared definition of college and career readiness in 2013. It was the culmination of a two-year process led by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education and the commissioner of higher education. It was part of the larger effort of improving the college readiness of graduating high school seniors and its students' college-completion rates. It has driven curricular decisions and high school assessment designs.

CONSIDERATIONS

Massachusetts should consider adding the college and career readiness measures in its school accountability reports; it is one of 27 states plus D.C. that does not include them in school report cards. Many states are working to define college and career readiness, although the indicators used for K-12 accountability vary. Some states consider college-enrollment rates among high school graduates, ACT/SAT results or college remediation rates as indicators of college and career readiness.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

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.

Kentucky – School performance rooted in college and career readiness

S.B. 1, passed in the 2009 session of the Kentucky Legislature, included the **Unbridled Learning: College/Career-Ready for All** initiative. The initiative details what students should learn, what will be tested, when tests are given, the composition of the public school accountability system and more. Most importantly, it begins with the end in mind. Rooting an accountability system in college and career readiness sends a strong message to students, schools and communities.