



MARYLAND



Maryland has addressed six of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state.

The state has developed policies to meet two of the four high school anchor policies. It has rigorous academic standards in place and aligned assessments.

Maryland's programs address two of the four anchor college policies. For example, it is one of 35 states with a statewide transferable core of lower-division courses and one of 36 states with a guaranteed transfer of associate degree policy.

Maryland has put in place programs to address both bridge policies. It also has a P-20 data pipeline system in place that is able to provide individual-level data from preschool through entry into the workforce.

| POLICY REVIEW | MARYLAND | NATIONAL |
|---|--|---|
| 1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required | YES Yes - AP course offerings mandatory | 48 states + D.C. 25 states |
| 2. ASSESSMENTS | YES , 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 , 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 | NO | 24 states use CCR to determine performance |
| 5. ADMISSION STANDARDS Statewide or systemwide | YES Systemwide (single system) 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 | NO | 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 No Yes Yes | 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 | NO Yes Yes No | 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

Maryland has been a leader in using community outreach and workgroups to help explain the goal and implementation of the Common Core State Standards. It resulted in good communication of the plan and its goals. It's one of five states that requires all districts to offer Advanced Placement (AP) coursework. Such programs are good tools to increase college readiness and admission. The requirement ensures that all students, regardless of location or demographics, have access to rigorous coursework.

The state also is one of 28 that has uniform admission policies to its public four-year colleges. They include specific high school coursework and other measurements such as GPA and assessment results. Such policies create transparency between high school and colleges on what constitutes college readiness and can boost enrollment among under-represented populations.

CONSIDERATIONS

Maryland should consider aligning its requirements for high school graduation with the requirements for college admission. It is one of eight states that has policies for both graduation and admission, but the policies are not aligned with each other. Six states have aligned all core subjects, while 12 states have aligned all core subjects except for foreign language.

Maryland also should look at developing statewide policies on the use of remedial education for incoming college students. Twenty-nine states have statewide or postsecondary systemwide remedial and course placement policies. Maryland's community colleges have a long-standing agreement to use common assessments and cut scores for course placement, but this practice is not set in formal policy.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) and American College Testing Program (ACT), *Statewide College Admissions, Student Preparation and Remediation Policies and Programs*, <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED416804.pdf>.

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

South Dakota – Using multiple measures

South Dakota's high school and graduation requirements and statewide higher education admission policies are good examples of setting competency-based proficiency for courses. A provision in the high school graduation requirements policy (**S.D. Admin. R. 24:43:11:09**) provides course equivalency exam exceptions for students to take the place of course requirements.

Similarly, the statewide higher education admission policy provides alternate opportunities to meet the minimum course requirements beyond seat time. Students can receive credit by achieving scores on standardized assessments such as ACT or SAT or on end-of-course exams such as AP tests.

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 allows 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.