



## MISSISSIPPI



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

It has developed a program for three of four high school anchor policies. As part of its core standards for rigorous coursework, it requires all districts to offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses. It also has an assessment system in place to test its students on the standards.

The state has implemented policies to address two of the four college benchmarks. It is one of 13 states that has statewide minimum requirements for admission to four-year colleges and one of 18 states with systemwide remedial policies.

Mississippi also has met one of the two bridge anchor policies. The state has a P-20 data pipeline system in place that is able to provide student-level data from preschool through their entry into the workforce.

POLICY REVIEW	MISSISSIPPI	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>YES</b> , PARCC; ACT	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>YES</b>	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> Statewide GPA; Assessments; High school coursework; Class rank	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>YES</b> Systemwide Systemwide	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> Yes Partial 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
<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> Yes No Yes, Retention	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>NO</b>	32 states + D.C. have CCR definition
<b>10. P-20 DATA</b> High school feedback report annually	<b>YES</b> No	50 states + D.C. have data system 42 states + D.C. have feedback report
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6 out of 10</b>	

## STRENGTHS

Mississippi is one of six states that has completely aligned high school graduation minimum requirements with college admission requirements. As a result, both the subjects and units required — such as successfully completing four credits or semesters of math to complete high school graduation requirements — are aligned to meet college admissions policies. This helps students demonstrate college and career readiness before performance on assessments and high school graduation.

Mississippi is one of 18 states with remedial and course placement policies for its separate two- and four-year systems to address the needs of students who are unprepared for college-level classes. The policies clearly communicate college readiness standards to students, K-12 schools, parents and the public. It also encourages high school students to improve their academic credentials before applying for college.

## CONSIDERATIONS

The state should consider adding barometers of college and career readiness to its K-12 school accountability system. Some states consider college-going rates, ACT/SAT results or college remediation rates as indicators of readiness. Others measure dual enrollment credits earned, AP exam scores or the number of industry certifications earned.

The state also should look at developing a clear definition of what constitutes college and career readiness to help drive policies and programs to improve students' skills when they enter the workforce. Thirty-two states have adopted definitions. A definition can provide a backbone for the state to align its high school and college benchmarks. The most common elements include academic knowledge, skills and assessment scores. Some of the definitions were as short as one sentence, while others were pages long.

## RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

Data Quality Center, *State Analysis by State Action* (Washington D.C.: Data Quality Campaign, 2014), <http://www.dataqualitycampaign.org/your-states-progress/10-state-actions?action=one>.

### 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.

### Tennessee – Statewide CCR definition

Tennessee defines college and career readiness as “the knowledge and skills needed for entry-level work and college freshmen coursework [and] success whether pursuing a career or a college education.” The state quantitatively puts this definition to use through cut scores for both the ACT and future assessments as standards for college acceptance and course placement.

Statewide, the Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee leverage the CCR definition to align the K-12 Common Core State Standards to credit-bearing, entry-level courses in English and math. Tennessee's CCR Definition can be found at: <http://www.state.tn.us/thec/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/coretocollege/2014/Core%20to%20College%20Interim%20Grant%20Report.pdf>.