



NEVADA



Nevada has addressed eight of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state. It has programs to address three of the four high school benchmarks. It has put in place rigorous core standards and is administering the ACT Plus Writing in 11th grade starting in the 2014-15 school year.

Nevada has policies and programs to implement all four of the college benchmarks. It has a statewide uniform set of policies that govern the transfer of course credits and associate degrees between its public colleges, and it is one of 15 states with systemwide minimum admission requirements for its four-year colleges. Nevada has met one of the two bridge anchor policies with a data system, which is able to provide student-level data to the people who need to make decisions about students' education, such as principals, teachers and parents.

POLICY REVIEW	NEVADA	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES No	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES, ACT	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	YES	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	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	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, Remedial course completion; 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	NO	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

Nevada has added barometers of college readiness to its system of measuring school performance and to its school accountability report cards. As a result, the state is holding its schools accountable for preparing students for college. By using measures such as Advanced Placement (AP) scores and ACT/SAT results, the state is aligning school accountability with overall state education goals.

Nevada also has put in statewide policies for remedial education. It is one of 21 states with uniform policies across its higher education institutions that identify one or more assessments that institutions can use to direct students into the appropriate courses. The policy also specifies minimum cut scores for placement into remedial or credit-bearing courses and allows institutions to use multiple measures to determine a student's level of college readiness. It is a key tool to address the high number of students who arrive on college campuses unprepared for coursework.

CONSIDERATIONS

Nevada should consider putting in place policies to address the two benchmarks the state has not met. State policymakers should look at aligning the requirements for high school graduation and college admission. Nevada is one of eight states with policies for both graduation and admission that are not the same. Six states have complete alignment and 12 others align all core subjects, except foreign language. In aligning the requirements, states have put in place policies to make sure high school requirements reflect college standards and workplace needs.

In addition, the state's AP, International Baccalaureate (IB) or dual enrollment opportunities could be expanded to ensure more students have access to advanced coursework in high school.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

Washington – Collaboration of high school and college systems

The state Board of Education in 2010 aligned high school graduation and college admission requirements through the establishment of **College Academic Distribution Requirements** (CADRs). They provide high school students with guidelines on what colleges require for admission into four-year higher education institutions. This is a good example of the high school and college systems collaborating to create greater access to postsecondary education.

Massachusetts – Definition built by statewide process and inclusive coalition

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 a larger effort to improve the college readiness of graduating high school seniors and college-completion rates.

More than 500 educators from 25 regional hubs in the commonwealth took part in the process. Presidents of 25 campuses submitted formal reports and recommendations that eventually led to one unified Massachusetts definition. It has driven curricular decisions and high school assessment designs.