



PENNSYLVANIA



Pennsylvania has addressed four of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the commonwealth.

The commonwealth has met three of the four high school anchor policies. It has put in place the rigorous Pennsylvania Core Standards and Algebra I and Literature Keystone Exams aligned to those standards.

Pennsylvania has not fully implemented any of four the college benchmarks but has made progress on transfer policies. It has met one of the two bridge anchor policies by establishing a statewide P-20 data pipeline.

POLICY REVIEW	PENNSYLVANIA	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES No	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES , End-of-course	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 course req. for college; 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	YES	24 states use CCR to determine performance
5. ADMISSION STANDARDS Statewide or systemwide	NO	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	NO Partial No Partial 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	NO No No Yes, Persistence; 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 No	50 states + D.C. have data system 42 states + D.C. have feedback report
TOTAL	4 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

Pennsylvania has strong K-12 accountability metrics that include a robust set of indicators for college and career readiness. The commonwealth has recognized that the increased focus on college readiness has an impact on accountability policies. The public will want to know how students are progressing toward meeting the new benchmarks and statewide accountability systems can help. Pennsylvania also has in place a P-20 data pipeline that is able to provide student-level data to the people who need to make decisions about students' education, such as principals, teachers and parents. The system means the commonwealth has the ability to use data on individual students — such as attendance patterns, discipline records and course grades — to ensure that all students are ready for success after graduation.

CONSIDERATIONS

Pennsylvania should consider restoring funding for dual enrollment programs. Its fiscal support for dual enrollment was discontinued in the 2012-13 budget and has not been reinstated. A growing body of research suggests that, even when controlling for student background and academic measures, dually enrolled students outperform their peers in terms of high school graduation rates, as well as college enrollment and persistence. Reinstating funding for dual enrollment programs could potentially enhance college readiness and participation in Pennsylvania, especially for traditionally underrepresented students. It also should look at broadening transfer policies to include all institutions that receive annual appropriations from the commonwealth. Thirty-six states offer statewide transfer for associate degrees earned at public institutions, and 35 states guarantee the transfer of general education courses. While Pennsylvania has made efforts to implement such transfer policies, its public institutions are not required to participate.

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>.

Increasing Student Access and Success in Dual Enrollment Programs: 13 Model State-Level Policy Components, ECS dual enrollment report, <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/10/91/11091.pdf>.

Florida – Comprehensive transfer policies

Florida has long been considered a leader in transfer policy. In addition to the four necessary statewide transfer policies listed in the Blueprint database, recent legislation — **H.B. 7135** (2012) — further supports transfer and completion by focusing on students and ensuring institutional compliance. It requires that students entering an associate degree program must, within the first completed 30 credits, indicate a baccalaureate degree program of interest at a four-year institution. The institution must notify the student of the prerequisites for that program.

Massachusetts – Definition built by statewide process and inclusive coalition

Massachusetts adopted a college and career readiness definition in February 2013 after a two-year process. The adoption of the definition was part of a broader effort to improve college readiness and college completion rates. High school teachers and higher education faculty actively engaged in more than 25 regional hubs that were established by the departments of education and higher education. In all, more than 500 educators participated, including 25 campus presidents who submitted formal reports on the work and recommendations for the state's CCR definition. Another team was charged with integrating the previously separate definitions of "college readiness" and "career readiness" into one unified Massachusetts definition. Massachusetts' definition can be found at: <http://www.mass.edu/library/documents/2013College&CareerReadinessDefinition.pdf>.