



RHODE ISLAND



Rhode Island has addressed three of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state.

It has developed programs for two of the four high school anchor policies with the adoption of college and career readiness standards and its participation in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium to test students' mastery of these standards.

The state has not fully adopted any of the four college benchmarks but has made progress on transfer policies. Rhode Island has implemented one of the two bridge anchor policies with its P-20 data pipeline for students with high school feedback reports.

POLICY REVIEW	RHODE ISLAND	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES Partial	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 statewide course req. for college	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	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 No 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 No No 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	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	3 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

Rhode Island has developed and is implementing college and career readiness standards for both English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The goal of these standards is to put students on a trajectory toward demonstrating college and career readiness upon high school graduation. To gauge students' progress in achieving standards, the state is one of nine states, plus the District of Columbia, administering PARCC at the high school level.

The state 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 is helping state and local leaders analyze the performance and effectiveness of a number of policies and programs. It acts as an early warning system for schools and districts if students fall behind and provides feedback reports to high schools on their graduates' performance in college.

CONSIDERATIONS

Rhode Island should consider adding measures of college and career readiness to its system for determining school performance. Twenty-three states include college and career readiness in their formulas to determine school and district performance. The measures vary by state, but common elements include participation in dual enrollment or Advanced Placement programs, ACT/SAT test results, college remediation rates and industry certifications earned.

The state should consider strengthening its existing transfer policies, which include guaranteed transfer of an associate degree and offer credit by assessment. It could do this by developing a statewide transferable core of lower-division courses, which 35 states have adopted, or implementing a statewide Common course numbering system to indicate course equivalencies across institutions.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

State Policies to Improve Student Transfer, NCSL, <http://www.ncsl.org/documents/educ/student-transfer.pdf>.

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.

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.

The measures include informing students of the requirements to transition from an associate degree to a baccalaureate program, requiring community colleges to include transfer rates in their accountability reports and mandating that transfer performance metrics are included in legislative budget requests.