



SOUTH DAKOTA



South Dakota has addressed eight of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state. It has developed policies for all four high school anchor benchmarks. It is one of only six states with complete alignment of high school graduation course requirements with college admission course requirements, including foreign language.

The state has policies in place for three of the four college anchor benchmarks, including systemwide minimum college admission requirements, a statewide remedial education and course placement policy, and uniform transfer policies between public institutions of higher education.

South Dakota also has policies to address one of the two bridge policies by establishing a statewide P-20 data pipeline. This is an important tool for the people who need to make decisions about students' education, such as principals, teachers and parents.

POLICY REVIEW	SOUTH DAKOTA	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES No	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES , SBAC	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	YES	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; Class rank	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	NO No Yes Yes, Retention; 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

South Dakota was an early adopter of aligning high school graduation course requirements with college admission course requirements and a prime example of using competency-based proficiency for meeting course requirements. A provision in the high school graduation requirements policy (**S.D. Admin. R. 24:43:11:09**) provides course equivalency exam exceptions for students in lieu of course requirements.

South Dakota is one of 15 states that has systemwide admission requirements for four-year colleges. The admission policy provides that students can receive credit by achieving a specific benchmark on standardized assessments such as ACT or SAT or on end-of-course exams such as Advanced Placement tests.

CONSIDERATIONS

South Dakota should look at joining the 32 states that have a statewide college and career readiness definition. The most common elements found in the definitions include academic knowledge, skills and assessment scores.

South Dakota also should consider setting a statutory college attainment goal for the state strategy to spur completion rates and highlight connections between postsecondary credentials and workforce needs.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

Tennessee's CCR Definition, <http://www.state.tn.us/thec/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/coretocollege/2014/Core%20to%20College%20Interim%20Grant%20Report.pdf>.

Massachusetts' CCR Definition,

<http://www.mass.edu/library/documents/2013College&CareerReadinessDefinition.pdf>.

Tennessee – Driving curricular decisions

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 college and career readiness definition to align the K-12 Common Core State Standards to credit-bearing, entry-level courses in English and math. They also use the definition to create common course profiles and supplementary curriculum materials for Common Core-aligned college algebra and expository writing courses.

Massachusetts – Inclusive process for CCR definition

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 the larger effort of improving the college readiness of graduating high school seniors and college-completion rates. More than 500 educators from 25 regional hubs in the state took part in the process. Presidents of 25 campuses submitted formal reports and recommendations that eventually led to one unified Massachusetts definition.