



VERMONT



Vermont has addressed four of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state.

The state has met two of the four high school anchor policies by adopting the Common Core State Standards and participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

Although it has not yet put in place any of the four college benchmarks, the state has made progress on its transfer and higher education accountability policies.

The state also has implemented programs for both bridge policies, including a clear definition of what it means to be college and career ready and a P-20 data pipeline to provide student-level data to the people who need to make decisions about students' education, such as principals, teachers and parents.

POLICY REVIEW	VERMONT	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	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 Systemwide	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 Partial Partial 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 Yes Yes 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	YES	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	4 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

Vermont is to be commended for strengthening its dual enrollment policies in 2013 as part of the Flexible Pathways Initiative. Vermont's dual enrollment policy has a number of strong features, including requiring public high schools and career technical centers to provide all eligible students with access to dual enrollment courses. State high schools, Vermont state colleges and the University of Vermont must work together to make dual enrollment opportunities available across the state. Additionally, tuition is covered in 2014 and 2015 for the first two dual enrollment courses a student takes.

CONSIDERATIONS

Vermont should consider using the indicators of college and career readiness that it currently includes in its school accountability report cards as part of the set of measures to determine school performance. Other common metrics used by states include Advanced Placement (AP) exam scores, ACT/SAT results and college remediation rates.

The state also should look into developing statewide, uniform policies on the transfer of course credits between colleges and associate degrees to four-year colleges that apply to all higher education systems in the state. Currently, there are separate transfer policies for the University of Vermont and the Vermont State College System, making it harder for students to transfer across systems. Thirty-five states have a statewide transferable core of lower-division courses and 36 states have a statewide policy for guaranteed transfer of an associate degree.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

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

Wisconsin – Stakeholder engagement

Wisconsin's **Act 20** (2013) mandates the development and adoption of college and career readiness standards by seeking information from a broad range of sources, including elementary and secondary teachers, instructors and experts from postsecondary institutions. This approach attempts to strengthen the connection between secondary and postsecondary schools, better communicating what it means for students to be college and career ready.

Louisiana – Comprehensive transfer policies

Louisiana's **S.B. 285/Act 356** (2009) was one of the first major pieces of transfer legislation in the country to require the four transfer policies in the ECS Blueprint database — a statewide policy for a transferable core of lower-division courses, a statewide policy for common course numbering, a statewide policy for guaranteed transfer of associate degree and a statewide policy for credit by assessment. The legislation also required institutions to be monitored for compliance and created an appeals process for students whose credits were not transferred.