



WEST VIRGINIA



West Virginia has addressed eight of the 10 Blueprint policies to improve college readiness in the state. It has developed programs for three of the four high school benchmarks. The state has aligned high school graduation requirements with college admission requirements in all core subjects except foreign languages.

West Virginia has addressed three of the four college anchor policies. The state has uniform, statewide policies for both the transfer of lower-division course credits and associate degrees and for testing and course placement for remedial education. The state also has developed a clear definition of college and career readiness 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	WEST VIRGINIA	NATIONAL
1. CCR STANDARDS AP, IB and/or dual credit required	YES Yes - AP or IB and CTE dual enrollment course offerings mandatory	48 states + D.C. 25 states
2. ASSESSMENTS	YES , SBAC; Other	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 , except foreign language	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	YES Statewide 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 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 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 No	50 states + D.C. have data system 42 states + D.C. have feedback report
TOTAL	8 out of 10	

STRENGTHS

West Virginia has a clear commitment to ensuring high school students have access to advanced coursework. It is one of 25 states that requires districts to provide advanced coursework, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or dual enrollment. In West Virginia's case, all school districts are required to provide a minimum of four AP classes — one each in English, mathematics, science and social sciences — or the IB program. In addition, consortia of community and technical colleges, secondary career/technical education and four-year postsecondary providers must offer West Virginia EDGE, which awards high school students college credit for competencies acquired by completing recognized career/technical courses.

The state also has developed uniform policies on requirements for admission to its four-year public colleges. It is one of 13 states that has taken a statewide approach to admission requirements. Statewide admissions policies, when clearly written and widely distributed, can help ensure that students are prepared for college and thus more likely to persist and complete their degrees. They also create transparency between high schools and higher education institutions about what indicators demonstrate college readiness.

CONSIDERATIONS

West Virginia should consider adding measures of college and career readiness to its system for determining school performance. The indicators used for K-12 accountability vary by state. Some states consider college-going rates, ACT/SAT results or college remediation rates as indicators of college and career readiness. Others measure participation in dual enrollment courses, AP scores or the number of industry certifications earned. Twenty-three states have college and career readiness measures in their formulas for school accountability.

The state also should look at using its P-20 data pipeline to provide feedback reports to high schools on their graduates' college performance. West Virginia is one of eight states that does not produce the reports. According to the Data Quality Campaign, a high-quality high school feedback report should contain aggregate-level information beyond test scores and includes postsecondary readiness and performance indicators.

RESOURCES AND STATE EXAMPLES

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.

Wisconsin – Stakeholder engagement

Wisconsin's **Act 20** enacted in 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.