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States with Guaranteed College Admissions Policies for High School Graduates

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The Context

The examples below represent legislative and postsecondary system efforts to guarantee admission to college for high school students who meet prescribed standards. Numerous public higher education institutions have guaranteed admissions plans, but they are not included below because they are not codified in state statute or postsecondary system rules. Further, the examples below exclude guaranteed admission to four-year institutions for college students who have completed an associate degree at a state community or technical college.

California

The California State University (CSU) System guarantees admission to a student's local CSU campus, if they meet system admissions requirements. Each campus has a rigidly defined service area. The California State University Board of Trustees approved the policy at a March, 2000 meeting. A summary can be found [here](#).

Colorado

The Colorado General Assembly enacted the [Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids \(CAP4K\)](#) in 2008. The statute (C.R.S. 22-7-1009 & 22-7-1017) requires the Colorado State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to adopt criteria to create a Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Endorsed Diploma. The diploma rewards high school students who are college ready by guaranteeing admission to all open-access and moderately selective institutions of higher education and priority consideration for admission to selective and highly selective institutions. All public, postsecondary institutions approved the endorsed diploma in June 2012.

To receive an endorsed diploma, a high school student must complete four steps, including proving college readiness in math and English, completing an individual career and academic plan,

demonstrating 21st century skills, and showing mastery of skills in three academic content areas. The Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) criteria can be found [here](#).

Florida

The Talented Twenty program was created through [Board of Governors Regulation 6.002](#). The program guarantees admission to one of 11 state universities and gives priority consideration for receiving the Florida Student Assistance Grant (FSAG), a need-based award. While eligible high school graduates receive guaranteed admission to one of the state universities, they are not assured admission to the university of their choice.

Iowa

The Iowa Board of Regents governs the three state universities: University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and Northern Iowa University. For all students matriculating after fall 2009, the board uses the [Regent Admission Index](#) to determine automatic admission. Any score above 245 guarantees admissibility. The index's components are ACT/SAT scores, high school rank, grade point average, and the number of completed core courses.

Mississippi

The Mississippi Institutes of Higher Learning guarantees [admission](#) to state public universities if high school graduates meet the required College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum high school grade point average of 3.2. For students who do not satisfy the GPA requirement, class rank and performance on the ACT or SAT are also used to judge admissibility.

Missouri

The Missouri Department of Higher Education has grouped public institutions into selectivity categories. Graduating high school seniors combine their percentile class rank and percentile score on the ACT or SAT composite to determine whether they are guaranteed admission to certain public universities. Students scoring 140 or above are guaranteed admission to the highly selective Truman State University. Students scoring 120 or 100 are admissible to selective and moderately selective institutions, respectively. Each selectivity category also contains ACT scores that allow for automatic admission. More information on automatic admissions can be found [here](#).

Montana

[Montana University System Policy 301.1](#) (revised September 2010) governs the full admission provisions that local campuses must implement. To receive full admission, students must complete the Regents' College Preparatory Curriculum, demonstrate proficiency in math and English, and achieve minimum scores on the ACT or SAT composite. For demonstration of math or English readiness, high school students can produce ACT/SAT subscores or Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam results.

Oregon

The State Board of Higher Education, which governs the Oregon University System (OUS), enacted new [Automatic Admissions Requirements](#) in February, 2012. Students must meet all five criteria, which

include: (1) graduation from a regionally accredited, Oregon high school; (2) completion of all courses required for an Oregon high school diploma and satisfaction of OUS subject requirements; (3) a minimum 3.4 grade point average; and (4) qualifying scores in reading, writing, applied mathematics, and speaking on the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, ACT, or SAT.

South Dakota

The South Dakota Board of Regents Policy 2.3 governs university admissions. To be admissible, students must have a 2.0 high school grade point average and accomplish one of the following: rank in the top 60% of one's high school class, obtain an ACT composite score of 18 or SAT score of 870, or obtain a high school grade point average of 2.6. The policy can be found [here](#).

Texas

Pursuant to [Texas Education Code §51.801 - 51.809](#), each public university shall admit high school students who graduate in the top 10% of their high school class. These students will be admitted if they have met one of the following: (1) successfully completed the Recommended or Advanced High School Program or a substantively similar curriculum; (2) satisfied the ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks; or (3) earned a 1,500 (out of 2,400) on the SAT. For the University of Texas at Austin, capacity concerns prompted state legislators to enact [Senate Bill 175](#) (2009), which modifies automatic admissions provisions for the institution. For students to receive automatic admission for fall 2013, they had to graduate in the top 8% of their high school class.

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