



Assessing College and Career Readiness

States are expanding and focusing efforts to prepare students for college and careers, particularly as states are implementing their Every Student Succeeds Act plans.^{1,2,3} As states have different definitions of what makes a student college and career ready, states also use different types of data, including assessments, course completions, degree attainments, and credentials to measure readiness.⁴ REL Southwest's five states use a variety of criteria to evaluate whether students are ready to enter college and/or a career. This infographic explores the criteria that each state offers to demonstrate postsecondary readiness.⁵

College and career readiness measure	Arkansas ⁶	Louisiana ⁷	New Mexico ⁸	Oklahoma ⁹	Texas ¹⁰
State assessment	Meet Ready or Exceeds level on ACT Aspire ¹¹	Meet Master or Advanced level on the LEAP 2025 ¹²	Score at the Proficient level (Level 4) on the PARCC ¹³	Meet graduation standard on the Science and History Content Assessment ¹⁴	Meet the minimum passing standard on the Texas Success ¹⁵
ACT Aspire	Meet Ready or Exceeds level ¹¹		Meet national benchmark scores ¹¹		
ACT	Meet national benchmark scores ¹¹	Meet national benchmark scores on the composite exam ¹¹	Meet national benchmark scores ¹¹	Meet national benchmark scores ¹¹	Meet national benchmark scores ¹¹
SAT			Meet national benchmark scores ¹⁶	Meet national benchmark scores ¹⁶	Meet national benchmark scores ¹⁶
ACT WorkKeys	Meet national benchmark scores ¹⁷				
PSAT/NMSQT	Meet national benchmark scores ¹⁶				
Advanced Placement		Pass one exam with a score of 3 or higher	Pass one exam with a score of 3 or higher		Pass one exam with a score of 3 or higher
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Pass one exam with a score of 4 or higher		Earn an IB diploma		Pass one exam with a score of 4 or higher
Industry-recognized certifications	Complete and receive credit for one course				Earn one certification
Concurrent or dual credit	Pass one exam with a score of 3 or higher (including Arkansas Career Education)		Earn credit in at least one course		Earn credit in at least one course, including OnRamps ¹⁸
College-level entry program		Pass one exam with score of 50 or higher			
ACCUPLACER			Meet national benchmark scores		
COMPASS			Meet national benchmark scores ¹¹		
ASVAB	Earn a category IIIA or higher on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) ¹⁹				
Career programs of study			Complete all coursework with a "C" average plus earn a high school diploma		
Higher education					Enroll in a postsecondary certification program or earn an associate's degree

References

- ¹ Achieve. (2016). *The college and career readiness of U.S. high school graduates*. Retrieved August 20, 2018, from <http://www.achieve.org/files/CCRHSGrads-March2016.pdf>.
- ² College and Career Readiness and Success (CCRS) Center. (2016). *Leveraging the Every Student Succeeds Act to support state visions for college and career readiness*. Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research. Retrieved September 5, 2018, from https://ccrscenter.org/sites/default/files/AskCCRS_LeveragingESSA.pdf.
- ³ Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI). (2016). *High school graduation requirements in a time of college and career readiness*. San Francisco, CA: WestEd. Retrieved from August 20, 2018, from https://www.csai-online.org/sites/default/files/resources/3075/CSAIReport_HSGraduationRequirements_CCR_0.pdf.
- ⁴ English, D. (2017). *Proposed state accountability systems under the Every Student Succeeds Act: A summary of fall 2017 submissions*. Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research. Retrieved September 6, 2018, from https://www.air.org/sites/default/files/Summary%20of%20State%20Accountability%20Snapshots_rev-Dec-2017.pdf.
- ⁵ In some Every Student Succeeds Act state plans, specific thresholds for college and career readiness were not identified.
- ⁶ Arkansas Department of Education. (2017). *Every Student Succeeds Act: Arkansas state plan*. Retrieved September 6, 2018, from <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/arconsolidatedstateplanfinal.pdf>.
- ⁷ Louisiana Department of Education. (2017). *Louisiana believes: Louisiana's elementary & secondary education plan pursuant to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act*. Retrieved September 6, 2018, from <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/lastateplan882017.pdf>.
- ⁸ New Mexico Public Education Department. (2017). *New Mexico rising: New Mexico's state plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act*. Retrieved September 6, 2018, from <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/nmconsolidatedstateplan.pdf>.
- ⁹ Oklahoma State Department of Education. (2017). *Oklahoma ESSA consolidated state plan: Part A*. Retrieved September 6, 2018, from <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/okconsolidatedstateplanfinalparta.pdf>.
- ¹⁰ Texas Education Agency. (2017). *Texas consolidated state plan*. Retrieved September 6, 2018, from <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/stateplan17/txconsolidatedstateplanfinal.pdf>.
- ¹¹ <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/college-and-career-readiness/benchmarks.html>
- ¹² <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/measuringresults/assessments-for-high-schools>
- ¹³ PARCC is the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers exam given to high school seniors in New Mexico. For more information on PARCC performance levels, see <https://parcc-assessment.org/performance-levels/>.
- ¹⁴ For a test blueprint and item specifications of the Oklahoma School Testing Program, see https://sde.ok.gov/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/2017-18_TIS%20_Sci_G11.pdf.
- ¹⁵ The Texas Success Initiative Assessment student informative brochure explains the passing standard; see <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/tsai-assessment-student-brochure.pdf>.
- ¹⁶ For more information about national benchmark scores for the SAT, see <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/scores/benchmarks>.
- ¹⁷ For more information on ACT's standards and benchmarks, see <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Work-Readiness-Standards-and-Benchmarks.pdf>.
- ¹⁸ For more information about OnRamps, see <https://onramps.utexas.edu/>.
- ¹⁹ For information about enlistment eligibility, see http://official-asvab.com/eligibility_res.htm.

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