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How States Align Policies for Postsecondary Readiness

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Postsecondary Readiness

Policies Along the Path from High School to College and Careers

February 27, 2020 — Students need a smooth path from the middle grades into high school, and then on to college, technical education programs and careers. How are states aligning their policies to make this happen?

[An online tool](#) from SREB details policies across this spectrum so government

and education leaders can compare across state lines, identify barriers where requirements don't align, and find ideas to improve access and equity for all students. The report shows how states have included readiness in their assessment and accountability systems, aligned high school graduation and college admission requirements, and offered more college and career planning.

"What's next, after high school?" asks SREB President Stephen Pruitt. "Each student should see a clear system of on- and off-ramps that allows them to pursue their dreams."

[Explore your state's policies on one page](#)



Find Policies by State

for high school success, college readiness and postsecondary completion

Browse by state

My State

[Or browse policies on these topics for the 16 SREB states](#)

[Definitions of college and career readiness](#)

A well-defined, shared vision for what it means to be college and career ready is important to prepare students for their options after high school.

[Planning for college and career in K-12](#)

In many SREB states, planning for graduation, college and careers begins in the middle grades.

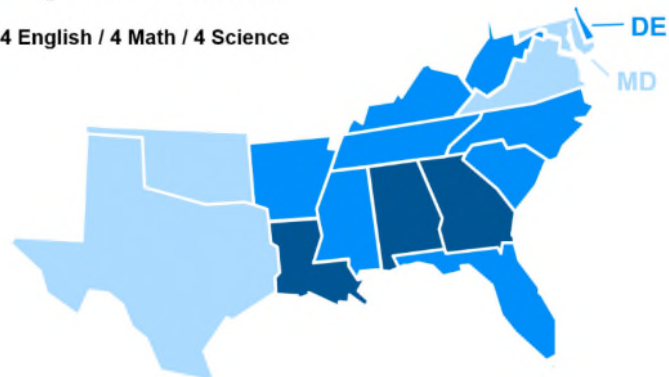
High school graduation requirements

How many courses does the state require in each subject? What assessments are required?

COURSE-TAKING REQUIREMENTS IN THE SREB REGION

Standard Diploma Option

- 4 English / 3 Math / 3 Science
- 4 English / 4 Math / 3 Science
- 4 English / 4 Math / 4 Science



Accelerated options for college courses during high school

A detailed look at each state's programs for career and technical education, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, early college and more.

Admission requirements for state colleges and technical schools

Which have statewide admission standards versus ones set by individual institutions?

Policies for placing students into college-level coursework

Who decides — and how — whether students are placed into college-credit or remedial courses?

State financial aid for undergraduates

More states now have a mix of need- and merit-based aid.

Feedback from postsecondary to K-12

How K-12 and postsecondary agencies share information about student attendance and performance.

“Our partners in states often request this information, and now we’re publishing it in one easy format,” says Jeff Gagne, SREB director of policy analysis. “We hope it will help them see any road bumps they could eliminate.”

A Path to College and Career: Stepping Stones for States

[Read the blog post from SREB Policy Analyst Meagan Crowe >](#)

[High School to College and Careers](#) tracks how state policies line up to promote smooth transitions for students after high school.

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