

Ready **Are Your Students Ready?**

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Create a District Readiness Team

School districts around the nation are taking on the Readiness Challenge by creating readiness teams of administrators, curriculum leaders and teachers. These districts are poised to make a difference in the lives of their underprepared students, who are the lynchpin to meeting the nation's workforce training needs.

Teachers can receive training in SREB Ready courses at the Readiness Courses Institute, July 11-15, 2016, in Louisville, Kentucky. Participants can also attend sessions at the annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference.

SREB SOLUTIONS

Readiness Courses:

Math Ready

Literacy Ready

Ready for High

School

Readiness Training

Contact Us

The Ready for College courses, Literacy Ready and Math Ready, are offered during the senior year to prepare students for the rigors of college and postsecondary studies.

The Ready for High School courses in literacy and math are offered during the eighth or ninth grade to give students a foundation for success in high school.

Stipends of \$600 per teacher are available for districts sending teams of five or more teachers. These stipends reimburse teachers for the \$250 registration fee and provide an additional \$350 to assist with travel expenses.

Register for the Readiness Courses Institute Today

Ready for High School?

The ninth grade is a critical year in determining whether students make it to their senior year. A ninth-grade student is three to five times more likely to fail a class than students in any other grade, and the courses with the highest failure rates are English, algebra and science. If high schools are to increase their graduation rates by reaching underprepared students, something must be done in the ninth grade.

Ready for High School: Literacy and Math

SREB has worked with master teachers in states to develop Ready for High School courses in literacy and mathematics. These courses are based upon sound pedagogy and filled with challenging and interesting content, designed to engage underprepared students and give them a foundation for success in high school. The courses can be offered during the eighth or ninth grade.

Training for these courses will be held during the Readiness Courses Institute, July 11- 15, 2016 in Louisville, Kentucky. We will pay your teachers a \$500 stipend, which will cover the \$250 conference registration fee and provide an additional \$250 to assist with travel expenses. This also includes a complimentary registration to the annual High Schools That Work Staff Development conference. Schools interested in piloting Ready for High School courses in literacy or math should contact John Squires at john.squires@sreb.org.

Get Ready to Make a Difference

Nearly a third of the students taking the ACT exam in 2015 did not meet any of the College Readiness Benchmarks. According to *Recovery 2013*, 65 percent of the nation's jobs will require some postsecondary training by the year 2020, either through a workforce training credential or a college degree.

To meet this challenge, SREB has developed two Ready for College courses, Literacy Ready and Math Ready. These courses are being taught in hundreds of high schools around the nation. Initial results in the 2014-15 school year show that schools implementing these courses can help close the readiness gap.

76 percent of Math Ready students show improvement on ACT math scores

67 percent of students in SREB Readiness courses improved ACT composite scores

56 percent of Literacy Ready students show improvement on ACT reading scores

57 percent of students in SREB Readiness courses improved ACT science scores

Higher Education Spotlight: Washington's Bridge to College

The state of Washington is improving student readiness through its Bridge to College program, which enables underprepared students to develop essential college readiness skills while still in high school. The courses in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics are designed to ensure students have the proper foundation for success in postsecondary studies. The program has been implemented in 114 high schools around the state. High schools are now registering for the 2016-17 school year, and the cohort of new and returning schools offering the courses is expected to be close to 200 (representing roughly half of the school districts with high schools in the state).

The ELA course utilizes materials from California State University's Expository Ready and Writing Course and SREB's Literacy Ready, while the math course uses SREB's Math Ready curriculum. Students who score in Level 2 (below college-ready) on the Smarter Balanced high school assessment, and then earn a B or higher in a Bridge to College course are considered college-ready, meaning they can take college-level courses without requiring remediation if they enroll at one of the Washington community or technical colleges (as well as Eastern Washington University). For more information on Washington's Bridge to College program, visit <http://bridgetocollegecourses.org/>.

Kudos to Washington for its efforts to improve student readiness!

Important: SREB encourages schools to obtain the critical teacher training necessary to ensure Literacy Ready and Math Ready are successful and implemented with fidelity.

► **Prepare your students to excel. Contact John Squires, SREB director of High School to College Readiness, for teacher training in your area. Email: john.squires@sreb.org.**

SREB

Southern Regional Education Board
592 10th St. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318
(404) 875-9211