

Ready

Are Your Students Ready?

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SREB States Tackle Readiness Gap

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Readiness initiative is working with three states – Arkansas, Mississippi and North Carolina – that are taking major steps to prepare their high school graduates by training hundreds of teachers and implementing SREB Readiness Courses statewide. Below is a look at each state's steps and future plans. SREB applauds these forerunners in readiness. They are tackling the readiness gap head on, and each state is poised to make a significant impact on the future of its students.

SREB SOLUTIONS

Readiness Courses:

Math Ready
Literacy Ready
High School Ready

Readiness Training

Contact Us

Arkansas

Responding to recently enacted legislation requiring senior transition courses, the Arkansas Department of Education trained more than 300 educators to teach the SREB Readiness Courses. The statute calls for the high schools to assess students before they graduate from high school and offer transition courses for those who do not meet college- and career-readiness standards. In May, 2015, educational co-op leaders from around the state gathered to hear SREB content experts George Johnson and Kenna Barger spread the vision for Literacy Ready and Math Ready. Also in spring 2015, K-12 leaders and higher education officials discussed how they can work together to stem the flow of students who enter college needing remediation. More than half of the 300 teachers trained this summer will teach the Literacy Ready course.

Mississippi

In the summer of 2015, the Mississippi Department of Education trained some 200 teachers – more than 60 in Literacy Ready and more than 160 in Math Ready. To support these teachers, Mississippi created an SREB Ready endorsement. The state affixes an SREB Literacy Ready or SREB Math Ready endorsement to the certifications of teachers completing the initial training and the online follow-up training. By creating an atmosphere of teamwork among readiness teachers through an electronic community, Mississippi is supporting the implementation of the readiness courses and maximizing these classes' impact on students by providing continuous opportunities for teachers to learn from each other.

“The SREB Readiness Courses provide rigorous curricula that meet the demands of students by ensuring they develop essential skills needed to be successful in postsecondary course work.”

Dr. Jean Massey, Mississippi Department of Education

North Carolina

North Carolina adopted transition courses early and trained more than 150 teachers in 2014-15 to implement Essentials for College Math, which is based on Math Ready units 3-8. In the summer of 2015, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction trained an additional 90 teachers to spread the courses statewide. Working with higher education, the state is taking major steps to limit the number of students entering college who need remediation. **Essentials for College Math was adopted as a fourth-year math course and is recognized as one of the math courses students can take to qualify for admission to the University of North Carolina.** Students who complete the Essentials for College Math course and meet the multiple measures criteria of a 2.6 high school GPA do not take remedial math courses when they enroll in a North Carolina community college.

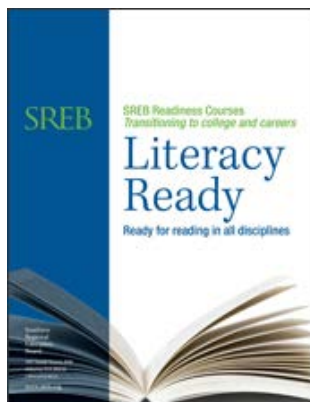
Eastern Carolina University, which administers the North Carolina Early Mathematics Placement Test (NC EMPT), worked with SREB to study pre- and post-test data from schools already offering the Essentials for College Math course. **As a whole, the 600 students in the study progressed one level in their preparedness for college mathematics (as gauged by their performance on the NC EMPT exam). This demonstrates that transition courses can make a significant impact on college readiness when implemented with fidelity.**

Readiness Courses Updated

Working with national experts in literacy and math, SREB updated the Readiness Courses — Literacy Ready and Math Ready. The new courses will be taught in high schools in the 2015-16 school year. Of the 2 million students taking the ACT in 2014, only 44 percent met the college-readiness benchmark in mathematics, and 43 percent met the college-readiness benchmark in reading. Built on sound pedagogy and interesting real-world content, Literacy Ready and Math Ready help schools address this readiness gap.

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.**



Literacy Ready

[Download Literacy Ready](#)

Literacy Ready – six literacy units, two each in English, history and science – emphasizes collaborative learning strategies and interactive classroom activities, such as Socratic Seminar and peer evaluation, to help students foster independent goal-setting and strong study habits.

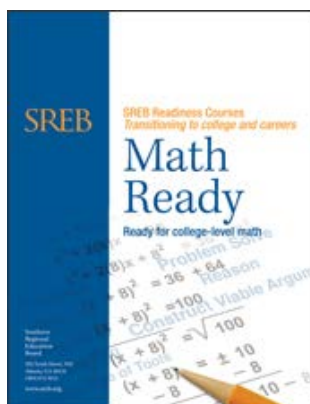
Reading texts at or above grade level, students discover the connection between comprehending text and expressing their knowledge through writing. They then produce authentic and rigorous communications products modelled after informational brochures, science symposia and argumentative essays, and other materials used in college and the workplace.

Math Ready

[Download Math Ready](#)

Math Ready strengthens students' conceptual understanding of mathematics by engaging them in solving real-world applications. The course is built with rigor, innovative instructional strategies and with a concentration on contextual learning that departs from procedural memorization.

Lessons begin with a “hook” to engage students and pre-assess prior math understanding. Several days of tasks delve deeply into math with an emphasis on focus, coherence and rigor. Units include a formative assessment lesson and formative assessment strategies, allowing the teacher to adapt instruction and learning based on student misunderstandings, obstacles or gaps in learning.



Higher Education Readiness Spotlight: Kentucky

In 2009, the Kentucky Legislature passed Senate Bill 1 to address existing college-readiness gaps, as more than 60 percent of high school graduates entering college need remediation. Senate Bill 1 calls for Kentucky's community and technical colleges to introduce college transition courses for students who do not meet the state college-readiness standards at their local high schools. Five years later, the percentage of high school graduates needing remediation when beginning college has fallen steadily, from 62 percent in 2009 to 34 percent in 2014. Kentucky is seeing the benefit of bringing higher education and K-12 together. Congratulations to the state of Kentucky for addressing the readiness gap!

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High School Ready

SREB is working with a team of talented educators and experts to develop a new set of math and literacy courses for students in eighth or ninth grade aimed at preparing them for rigorous high school courses. By intervening earlier, underprepared students are put on a college-ready path well before high school graduation. Ninth grade is a key year, as more students are held back in the ninth grade than at any other time. The SREB High School Readiness Courses in literacy and mathematics will be class-tested in 2015-16. During the summer of 2016, SREB will provide training to schools that wish to offer the readiness courses in grade eight or nine in the 2016-17 school year.

Take Steps Now to Address the Readiness Gap

[Download the SREB Readiness Courses](#)

[Inquire about training for Readiness Courses](#)

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