

# Ready

## Are Your Students Ready?

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Nearly three quarters of high school seniors do not meet the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in English, reading, mathematics and science. The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) offers Math Ready and Literacy Ready, specifically designed to reach those students not meeting college- and career-readiness standards. For two decades, SREB has worked with college and career preparation, developing solutions for the areas where students struggle the most – literacy and math.

### SREB SOLUTIONS

#### Special Offer:

The first 50 to register earn a \$500 stipend!

Readiness Institute Courses  
July 13-17, 2015  
Atlanta, Georgia

#### Register Now

#### Readiness Courses:

Math Ready  
Literacy Ready

## A Nation at Risk

We are in a crisis. While high school graduation rates continue to rise steadily, the number of students succeeding in college and careers has not kept pace.

### Students who graduate high school unprepared face a cold reality:

Fourteen percent of the nation's 16-24-year-olds are neither in school nor working.

Less than 10 percent of underprepared students who do attend community college graduate in three years, and a little more than a third complete bachelor's degrees within six years.

Of the two million students taking the 2014 ACT, only 43 percent met the benchmark in reading, 44 percent in math and only 37 percent met the benchmark in science.

As higher state standards are applied through new student assessments over the next two years, the readiness rates are expected to decline significantly.

### Meanwhile, the nation's employers demand more postsecondary training:

In 2010, 59 percent of all jobs required some postsecondary education or training. This is expected to increase to 65 percent by 2020.

Up to 90 percent of all jobs require skills in mathematics and reading; yet only 19 percent of those taking the National Career Readiness Certificate test score Gold or Platinum on the WorkKeys test for Career Readiness.



"Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, minority students, adult learners and nontraditional students often face practical obstacles to getting an education and are harder to train using conventional teaching techniques. The result is an increasing labor shortage caused by the slowing pace of postsecondary attainment and the quickening pace of educational demand."

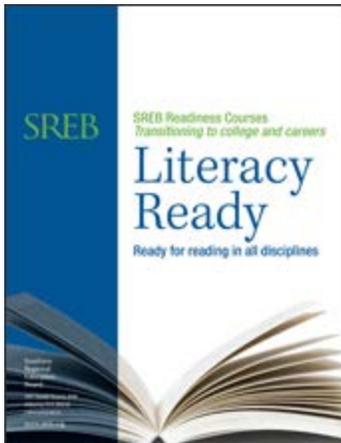
*Recovery, 2013*

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## Closing the Gap

SREB's Literacy Ready and Math Ready courses prepare high school students for postsecondary success in college or the workforce. They will be particularly helpful over the next several years in addressing the projected decline of postsecondary readiness rates when the new assessments come online. Both courses are innovative and replace the traditional classroom with active learning and formative assessments to gauge student understanding through the course. By linking topics to challenging, real-world situations, students take control of their learning and become engaged in analyzing and solving problems.

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[Download Literacy Ready](#)

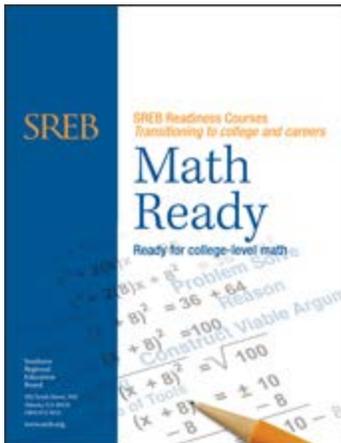
### Literacy Ready

Literacy Ready – six literacy units, two each on 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, and prepare for assessments in content areas.

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

Each element of student work is a designed formative or summative assessment, and the teacher guide offers additional resources to guide instruction. Students keep an academic notebook with all the materials and assignments for each unit.

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[Download Math Ready](#)

### 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 a concentration on contextual learning that departs from procedural memorization.

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

The course addresses standards throughout high school and even earlier, including Algebra I, statistics, geometry and Algebra II, all accepted as essential college- and career-readiness standards. It consists of seven mandatory modules: algebraic expressions, equations, measurement and proportional reasoning, linear functions, linear systems of equations, quadratic functions, exponential functions and summarizing and interpreting statistical data.

## What are Teachers and Students Saying?

### Literacy Ready Students

“Annotating the texts prepared me for college. I know in college I will have to use annotating to my advantage.”

“Taking notes and annotations really taught us how to dig into the knowledge and find out what we need to know.”

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### Literacy Ready Teachers

“Students were engaged in the lessons and were able to express their ideas with supporting evidence.”

“Students were able to follow scientific protocol and write scientifically about their findings. They were able to think and write like a scientist.”

[More comments about Literacy Ready](#)

### Math Ready Students

“I thought statistics was very interesting. It was a fun unit and was very easy to catch on to because of the different activities and practices.”

“I really enjoyed the [quadratics] module. My favorite part was the gummy bear project where we created a platform to launch the gummy bears off while learning about quadratics (max, min, zeros, roots, x-intercepts). I learned more through this module than I have in any math class.”

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### Math Ready Teachers

“The students have been actively engaged in the lessons and have enjoyed working together and sharing their responses. Overall, the feedback from the students has been positive.”

“Even those students who are not easily motivated were engaged all period.”

[More comments about Math Ready](#)

## Training Available

### Readiness Institute

Be one of the first 50 to register for the Readiness Courses Institute and receive \$500. SREB hosts an open registration training for the Readiness Courses each summer during the High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference, which is in Atlanta, Georgia, this year from July 13-17. This training is open to any teacher or principal in the United States.

[Register for the Readiness Courses Institute](#)

### Statewide Training in Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina and West Virginia

Literacy Ready and Math Ready will be implemented in four states in the 2015-16 school year: Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina and West Virginia. Contact each state's department of education for registration information.

### Other Training

SREB can provide additional training for the Readiness Courses. If interested, please contact [John Squires](#), director of High School to College Readiness.

### Colleges Address the Readiness Gap

Higher education can play a pivotal role in helping high schools. Several states have policies calling for transitional courses to address college readiness, and colleges can play a vital role in the implementation and acceptance of these courses. SREB's approach — getting high schools and colleges to work together in addressing the college readiness gap — can be found in the following policy brief: [SREB's Essential Elements of State Policy for College Completion: Transitional Courses](#)

## High School Readiness

Earlier intervention in high school is the SREB Readiness Courses project goal. 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 any other year. In the 2016-17 school year, SREB will implement the high school readiness courses in selected eighth-grade classrooms.

### Take Steps Now to Address the Readiness Gap

[Download the SREB Readiness Courses](#)

[Register for the Readiness Institute](#)

[Contact John Squires, SREB director of High School to College Readiness](#)

# SREB

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