

Ready **Are Your Students Ready?**

In this newsletter:

SREB Launches Ready for High School Courses

Readiness Becomes a National Initiative

Ready for College Courses: Making a Difference

Higher Education Spotlight: Alabama Community Colleges

SREB Launches Ready for High School Courses

To address the nation's readiness crisis, the **Southern Regional Education Board** (SREB) developed Ready for College courses in literacy and math, which schools can use during the senior year to prepare students for college studies. In recognition that underprepared students often struggle before they reach high school, SREB has worked with master teachers and content experts from around the nation to develop earlier interventions.

SREB's Ready for High School courses in literacy and math are being piloted during the 2016-17 school year. Teachers in Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington and West Virginia have been trained in the new courses and are implementing them in their classrooms.

SREB SOLUTIONS

Ready for College

Math Ready
Literacy Ready

Ready for High School

Ready for HS Literacy
Ready for HS Math

Readiness Training

Contact Us

After the pilots are completed and evaluated, SREB will work with schools, districts and states to implement the new Readiness courses, which can be utilized in either the eighth or ninth grade to prepare students for the challenges of the high school curriculum. Read more about the new **Ready for High School** courses.

Readiness Becomes a National Initiative



Since California State University (CSU) launched the **Early Assessment Program** in 2002, more than 20 states have followed its lead and taken steps to increase student readiness before students graduate from high school. Readiness programs are being implemented across the nation, and SREB's Ready for College courses, Literacy Ready and Math Ready, are being utilized in more than 10 states, often as part of a statewide program such as Washington's **Bridge to College**.

States are now seeing the impact of addressing readiness during the senior year of high school. Several studies verify the impact of CSU's Early Assessment Program, and in Kentucky, college readiness has doubled among high school graduates since the implementation of **Senate Bill 1** in 2009, which revamped the state's assessment and accountability systems.

By creating partnerships between community colleges and high schools, and introducing the readiness standards before students graduate, students meeting the readiness standards increased dramatically, from 34 percent in 2009 to 67 percent in 2015.

Similarly, Tennessee is watching remediation rates decline since it implemented the **SAILS** program, which embeds the college developmental curriculum in the high school senior year. The percentage of first-time college freshmen needing remediation has fallen from 77 percent in 2011 to 55 percent in 2015 — a 29-percent decrease in just four years.



If you would like to receive information about readiness programs around the nation, or if you are working to address readiness during the senior year of high school, please contact us at Ready@SREB.org.

Ready for College Courses Making a Difference



SREB worked with state leaders in Arkansas and Mississippi to allow students in SREB Ready courses to take the ACT during the 2015-16 school year. SREB has collected the data and analyzed the pre- and post-test ACT scores for students in SREB Ready for College courses who had previously taken the ACT during the 2014-15 school year. The results, which document the effectiveness of the SREB courses, are summarized below.

Literacy Ready ACT Results



Students taking the Literacy Ready course can substantially increase their readiness for college. Most of the students in the course increased their ACT sub-scores in English and reading, as well as their overall ACT score. Among the majority of students who increased their scores, the average increase was 3.16 points in English, 3.48 points in reading and an increase of 2.26 points on the ACT Composite score. A paired t-test of the ACT Composite pre- and post-test scores (which increased from 16.4 to 17.2), indicated a significant difference at the 99 percent confidence level [$t=2.75$, $n=53$].

Math Ready ACT Results

Students taking the Math Ready course often experience significant gains in their abilities to understand and apply mathematical concepts. The majority of students increased their ACT sub-scores in math and science, as well as their overall ACT score. Among the 60 percent of students who increased their scores, the average increase was 2.14 points in math, 3.41 points in science and 2.09 points on the ACT composite score. Paired t-tests of the ACT math, science, and composite pre- and post-test scores (which increased from 16.2 to 17.2 in math, from 17.3 to 18.4 in science and from 16.9 to 17.8 composite), indicated a significant difference in each of the scores at the 99 percent confidence level [$t = 9.04$ math, $t = 4.64$ science, $t = 7.27$ composite, $n=336$].

Conditions for Successful Implementation

To realize these gains in college readiness, schools need to follow SREB recommendations for implementing the Readiness courses:

1. Only students who are within 2-3 points of the college readiness benchmark should be placed into Literacy Ready or Math Ready courses.
2. Teachers must be trained in the new pedagogy in order to see a difference in their classrooms. SREB provides trainings to states implementing the courses during the Readiness Courses Institute, held each July during the [High Schools That Work That Work Staff Development Conference](#).

Contact Ready@SREB.org with questions about training.

Higher Education Spotlight: Alabama Community Colleges



Alabama is piloting the two SREB Readiness courses to increase high school seniors' preparedness for postsecondary studies, and the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) has endorsed the K-12 efforts. During the summer, SREB trained more than 100 educators in the Ready for College courses, putting schools on track to implement Literacy Ready and Math Ready during the 2016-17 school year. At the same time, ACCS has identified a set of community colleges to partner with local high schools that are implementing the courses and ensure a smooth transition from high school to college for those students taking the courses. Congratulations to the Alabama Department of Education and the Alabama Community College System for working together to increase student readiness among the state's high school graduates!



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

Follow us!

