

SREB

Ready

*Powerful, free courses to teach students the **skills** they need to learn and think independently after high school, in college and careers.*

Southern
Regional
Education
Board

SREB.org/Ready

SREB Readiness Courses

Math Ready: Ready for college-level math

Literacy Ready: Ready for reading in all disciplines

Are your students *ready* for college and careers?

The problem: Too many U. S. students graduate from high school underprepared for college or career training, and far too many need developmental education when they get to college — leading to a weak workforce and poor college completion rates. This readiness gap will look even larger as new common assessments begin testing students on more rigorous college- and career-readiness standards such as the Common Core State Standards.

One solution: SREB's two Readiness Courses have been developed specifically to teach skills that can close the readiness gap in reading, writing and math — how to learn and think independently, read for information and solve problems. These are the skills young adults must have to succeed, whether they go on to postsecondary study or the workplace.

Students who test as underprepared will take the classes, designed for 11th or 12th grade and taught in an innovative and engaging way. All students should be assessed on college- and career-readiness standards no later than 11th grade.

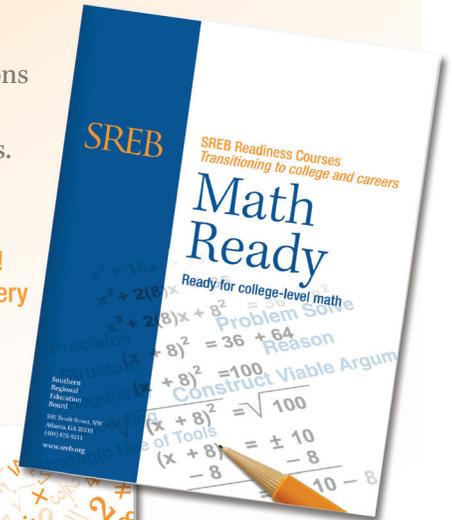
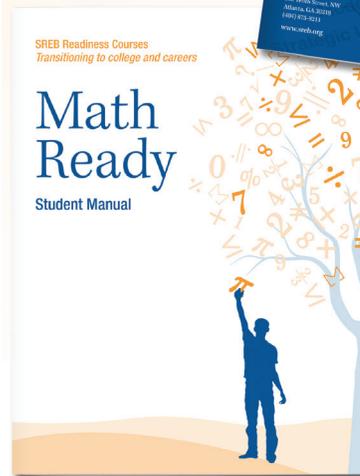
“The need for these courses is urgent now, as states prepare for assessments on the new, higher standards.” – Dave Spence, president, Southern Regional Education Board

The move to more rigorous standards creates a critical need to prepare more high school students with the skills they will need in careers and college-level study.

Math Ready: *Ready for college-level math*

Emphasizes understanding of math concepts rather than just memorizing procedures. Math Ready students learn the context behind the procedure: why to use a certain formula or method to solve a problem, for example. This equips them with higher-order thinking to apply math skills, functions and concepts in different situations.

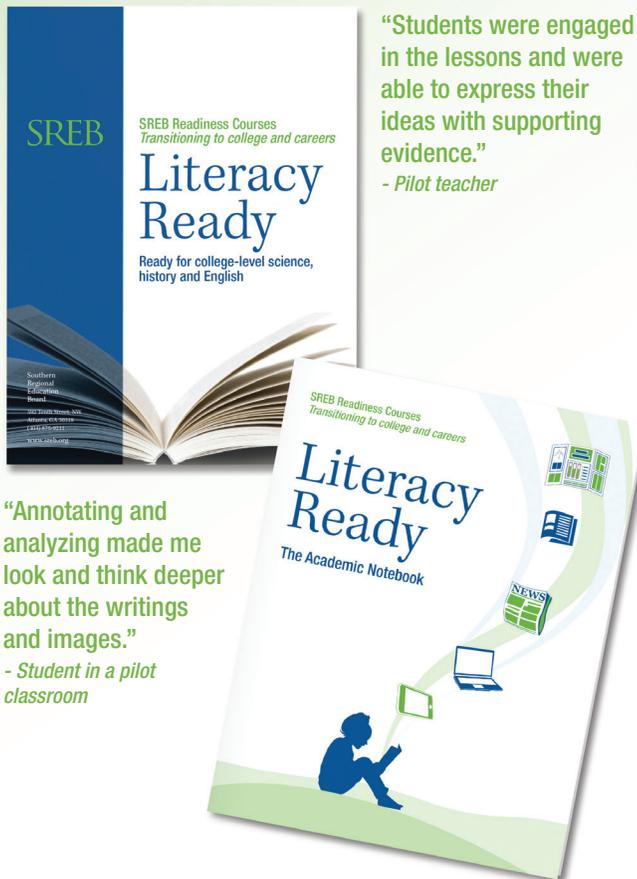
“The kids really got it! I think this will be a very successful program.”
- Pilot teacher



“In this class, we were up doing things, asking questions, figuring things out for ourselves.”
- Student in a pilot classroom

Literacy Ready: Ready for reading in all disciplines

Teaches students strategies for reading and truly understanding specific kinds of complex texts in all subjects — reading a biology textbook, for example, is different than reading short stories or history research articles. Students learn to develop and defend ideas from the text and write about them in different college-level formats.



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

“Annotating and analyzing made me look and think deeper about the writings and images.”
- Student in a pilot classroom

SREB Readiness Courses *Transitioning to college and careers*

The problem: New college- and career-readiness standards such as the Common Core are different and often more rigorous than previous standards, as will be the assessments to gauge progress on them. At first, a much higher percentage of students will graduate from high school not meeting their state’s college-readiness performance level. This means even more students will need developmental education in college before they can pursue credit-bearing courses.

One solution: Tackling the problem with supplemental SREB Readiness Courses is the most important thing schools can do to help students master assessments on higher college- and career-readiness standards.

Implemented statewide, the SREB Readiness Courses will reduce the need for developmental education in colleges — and will eventually boost college completion.

Developed by states, collaboratively *Available to all states at no cost*

SREB Readiness Courses have been developed, reviewed and field-tested by teams from 14 partner states. Appointed by state education leaders, the members — K-12 teachers, state agency staff, and faculty from community and technical colleges and universities — came together in specific teams for each of the core disciplines and built consensus on how best to prepare students for postsecondary work.

The courses are available to download free of charge at SREB.org/Ready. The work is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of a larger grant to help states succeed in their efforts to implement college- and career-readiness standards.

Strengthen Your Statewide Policy for College and Career Readiness

SREB Readiness Courses are the culmination of years of work in state capitols and local classrooms to close gaps between levels of the education system — a major strategy in SREB’s mission to improve education in order to grow state economies.

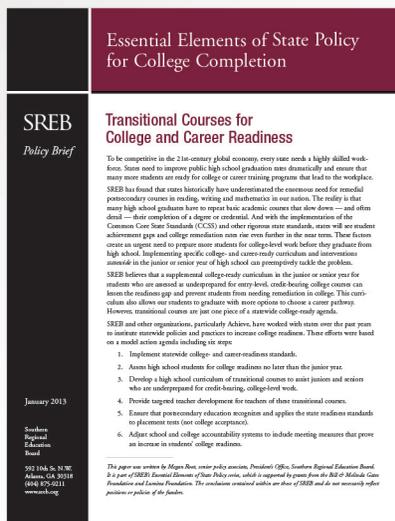
SREB recommends that all states assess high school juniors for college and career readiness and provide those who are not ready with courses specifically targeted toward skills for college study and careers. This is one powerful step in creating or strengthening statewide college and career readiness policy. SREB’s comprehensive action agenda for college and career readiness encourages statewide legislative or Board of Education policy to:

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards.
2. Assess students in 11th grade for progress toward the standards.
3. **Require College- and Career-Ready or Transitional curriculum for students assessed as not ready. SREB Readiness Courses are built to prepare these students to be ready.**
4. Ensure that public postsecondary institutions apply the readiness standards when placing admitted students in credit-bearing or remedial study.
5. Include increasing postsecondary readiness as an important criterion in school accountability systems.

Without Readiness Courses to help transition students, states will at first see college remediation rates soar as they implement more rigorous college- and career-readiness standards.

See This SREB Policy Brief to Learn More

Essential Elements of State Policy for College Completion: Transitional Courses for College and Career Readiness outlines six major policy elements and highlights 12 recommendations for implementing (transitional) readiness courses. Available at SREB.org



To register to use the courses at no cost and see more details, visit SREB.org/Ready. Or contact Megan Root, SREB project coordinator and senior policy and project associate, at Megan.Root@SREB.org or (404) 962-9639.

SREB

Southern Regional Education Board
592 10th St. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318-5776

Get Your Students to *Ready* in the Classroom

Which students?

SREB Readiness Courses are designed for high school students who, by their junior year, score slightly below the college-readiness level on state or national tests. These courses are not designed to help the lowest-scoring students.

Which standards?

SREB Readiness Courses are grounded in the Common Core College and Career Readiness anchor standards in literacy and math.

What tools?

Hybrid in-class and online approaches

Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) and Math Design Collaborative (MDC) strategies to help students reach deeper learning

Who made them?

Teachers, college faculty and other educators from 14 states worked in teams to build units for their content areas.

What are teachers saying?

The way the skills are taught promotes differentiated learning for individual students.

The course content is very flexible — useful in many different classrooms and levels — as stand-alone courses, student interventions, or supplemental units in existing courses.

To see unit descriptions and download the courses at no cost, visit SREB.org/Ready.
Or contact Megan Root, SREB project coordinator and senior policy and project associate, at Megan.Root@SREB.org or (404) 962-9639.

Literacy Ready: *Ready for reading in all disciplines*

Prepares high school students to read and write about college-level texts in core subjects.

Includes 6 units:

- 2 in social science
- 2 in English
- 2 in science

The content of each discipline is at the forefront of the curriculum, while literacy skills specific to each discipline are emphasized in reading and writing assignments based on the content.

Math Ready: *Ready for college-level math*

Prepares students for college-level math assignments based on the content.

Includes 8 units:

- exponentials
- quadratics
- equations
- measurements
- number operations
- systems
- linear functions
- statistics (optional)

(Not designed to prepare students for college-level math for STEM majors)

SREB

Southern Regional Education Board
592 10th St. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30318-5776

SREB Readiness Courses

Formerly Transitional Courses for College and Career Readiness

As part of the SREB grant: *Advancing Common Core Standards, Educator Effectiveness, and College Readiness in SREB States*

SREB has been working for two decades in the arena of implementing high school courses to help students transition into postsecondary work. One result today are SREB's Readiness Courses (transitional courses), which assist a target group of students who have not been able to reach the state's college- and career-readiness level with traditional core classes. SREB Readiness Courses help this target group in high school, to master literacy and numeracy skills they need for more rigorous learning — preparing them directly for career-training programs and/or college.

This effort expands on work initiated in 2008 with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation — the SREB multi-year project called *Strengthening Statewide College- and Career-Readiness Initiatives (SSCRI)*.

SREB believes that states historically have underestimated the enormous remedial education issue in our nation.

With a current grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, SREB pulled a team of states together to build these SREB Readiness Courses together — collaboratively and cooperatively. Teams of state and local educators and policy-makers from 14 states (and counting) assisted SREB with this work. In addition, outside organizations partnered with SREB on this effort including Achieve, Inc., PARCC, Smarter Balanced, and Apple Inc.

The courses were developed by a team of state representatives from K-12 through higher education from the first five partner states — Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. This diverse team worked together for two years to develop the courses and build consensus around how to prepare students for postsecondary work. Representatives from the additional nine partner states assisted in reviewing and revising of the courses before publication.

The classroom version of the SREB Readiness Courses will be available to download online for any state, district, school or teacher to use, free of charge, in October 2013.

With the help of Apple Inc., SREB is also building online versions of the courses for increased flexibility for states and schools. These courses will be available in spring 2014 on iTunes U.

SREB plans to work with states to ensure that there is a process for measuring the extent to which students emerge from these courses college-ready, evaluate the course effectiveness, provide additional professional development resources and more in the future.

State Partners

Arkansas	Georgia	Maryland	Ohio
Colorado	Indiana	Mississippi	Oklahoma
Delaware	Kentucky	New York	Tennessee
Florida	Louisiana	North Carolina	West Virginia

Time Frame

Current efforts build on SREB's earlier work in this area. From 2005 to 2007, SREB developed the transitional course strategy and model agenda. From 2008 to 2010, with a grant from the Gates Foundation, SREB worked with several states on transitional courses in math and English language arts. With an additional grant in 2011, SREB took this work even further.

2011 SREB began work with five states to develop (transitional) courses in math and disciplinary literacy. Stakeholders from five states began work.

Jan-Dec 2012 Stakeholder teams formed separate writing groups to draft the math and disciplinary literacy courses. Subgroups were formed to write each of the units in each content area. The groups met in person in January, February and May and also met monthly online. One additional state joined.

October 2012 Eight new states joined the coalition in a partnership with Achieve, Inc. and PARCC.

January 2013 SREB held a meeting of the 14 partner states for three purposes: (1) to bring the new partner states up to speed, (2) to open up the formal external evaluation process by new state stakeholders who did not participating in the writing process, and (3) to formally begin field-testing the units in four states.

Spring 2013 Courses were field-tested in selected schools in four states. States conducted external evaluations of the draft courses. Achieve conducted a formal external evaluation as well.

Summer 2013 SREB revised the courses based on evaluation and field-testing feedback. SREB hosted a teacher training workshop for pilot teachers and other stakeholders from 12 states. Two additional states joined. Achieve conducted a second formal review of the final courses.

October 2013 SREB publishes the first edition of curricula on its' website.

Fall 2013-May 2014 SREB assists states in piloting and implementing the Readiness Courses.

December 2014 SREB hosts an additional teacher training workshop for pilot teachers.

Spring 2014 SREB publishes online versions of the SREB Readiness Courses on iTunes U.

June 2014 Current grant ends. SREB is in the process of securing a grant to continue and further this work.