

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.