Mapping Career Readiness in ESSA

March 5, 2018
Growing Support for Career Readiness

- Widespread bipartisan support in Congress
- State legislatures passed more policies in 2017 than the year before
- CTE/workforce development was top priority in state of state speeches
- National initiatives underway to strengthen/expand career pathways
ESSA and Career Readiness: Key Opportunities
WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION.—The term “well-rounded education” means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.
Accountability

- Required to have at least 5 indicators
- ESSA calls for state-identified “school quality or student success indicator”
- Opportunity for states to measure career readiness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Achievement</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
<td>High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Progress</td>
<td>Elem/ Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Proficiency</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measure of School Quality or Student Success</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accountability

Career Readiness Expert Workgroup Recommendations

1. Progress Toward Post-High School Credential
2. Co-Curricular Learning and Leadership Experiences
3. Assessment of Readiness
4. Transitions Beyond High School
Funding Opportunities

- **Title I:** Direct Student Services
- **Title II, Part A:** Supporting Effective Instruction
- **Title IV, Part A:** Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- **Title IV, Part B:** 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Career Readiness & the Every Student Succeeds Act: Mapping Career Readiness in State ESSA Plans

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) presented states with a significant opportunity to design their K-12 education systems to prepare all students for college and careers. States seized this occasion to set and execute a vision that provides students with multiple, meaningful opportunities to engage in pathways that build awareness of career opportunities, provide real-world instruction and lead to credentials with labor market value.

The U.S. Department of Education set two deadlines for state ESSA plan submissions — April and September 2017. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia elected to submit plans in “round 1,” and 34 states submitted plans in “round 2.” Advance CTE and Education Strategy Group reviewed all state plans to examine and document the extent to which states took advantage of the ESSA opportunity to improve career readiness in grades K-12.

Key Takeaways from ESSA State Plans

- Forty-nine states include at least one strategy to expand career readiness in their ESSA plans.
- States used the accountability provisions as the most direct — and most leveraged — vehicle for incorporating career readiness in their plans. Thirty-two states included a career-focused measure in their high school accountability rating systems, with another seven states including a measure in their public reporting systems or committing to explore such a measure for accountability in the near future.
- More than half the states set a vision of college and career readiness for their students. Yet only 13 connected the aspirational vision to the reality of their long-term goals.
- Thirty-six states signaled that a well-rounded education should include, and that federal funds should be used locally to support, CTE and career readiness through Title IV. However, only 11 states described specific state-level activities to support career readiness: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and/or dual enrollment under Title IV, Part A; Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.
- Twenty states identified career readiness as an explicit priority for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers’ competitive funding under Title IV, Part K.
- Eleven states highlighted opportunities under Title II, Part A to attract qualified professionals, support professional development activities related to career readiness, and develop ‘grow your own’ teacher pathways in high school. However, only seven states specified that they would use Title I, Part A funding for these activities.
- Only two states plan to leverage the Title I direct student services set-aside to expand CTE, AP and IB pathways.
- Connections between career readiness and academic standards and assessments were not explicitly identified in any state plans.
Title I: Accountability

• A total of **35 states** adopted career readiness indicators
• An additional **7 states** have plans to adopt or report measures of career readiness

States Planning to Include or Report Career Readiness Indicators

- **Adopted**: 35
- **May Adopt in Future**: 9
- **Publicly Report**: 3
- **Not Included**: 4
South Dakota

- College and Career Readiness weighted at 25% of high school accountability score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Maximum Points Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Cohort Graduation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College and Career Readiness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Proficiency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Completion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# College and Career Readiness

## Assessment of Readiness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student must meet 1 readiness indicator</th>
<th>Progress Towards Post High School Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English and Math Readiness</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student must meet 1 progress indicator</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• English Readiness (must meet 1 of 3 options)</td>
<td><strong>CTE Concentrator</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o SBAC Level 3 or 4 in ELA</td>
<td>• 2 units within 1 career cluster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ACT English sub-score of 18</td>
<td><strong>Dual credit or concurrent course</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Completion of state-approved high school remediation for English</td>
<td>• Completed with a C or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Math Readiness (must meet 1 of 3 options)</td>
<td><strong>Advanced Placement course</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o SBAC Level 3 or 4 in math</td>
<td>• Completed with a C or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o ACT math sub-score of 20</td>
<td><strong>Advanced Placement exam</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Completion of state-approved high school remediation for math</td>
<td>• Completed with a score of 3 or higher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## National Career Readiness Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Career Readiness Certificate</th>
<th>2 CTE foundational courses or capstone experiences***</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Silver certification or higher</td>
<td>• Completed with a C or higher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* denotes those pieces that will be phased in over time as data systems are developed
Title I: School Supports

- Schools identified for targeted or comprehensive support and improvement (TSI/CSI):
  - Are required to **complete a local needs assessment**
  - Receive **additional supports and funding** to improve student outcomes

- **5 states** identified expansion of CTE/ career pathways as a **critical support opportunity** for TSI/CSI schools
Title I: Direct Student Services

- In total, only 2 states are using DSS opportunity

**Louisiana** plans to use DSS set aside to expand access to dual enrollment, CTE and postsecondary transition supports.

**New Mexico** plans to use the set aside to incentivize expanding access to AP, dual credit and CTE.
Title II, Part A: Effective Instruction

- **11 states** identified opportunities, but **only 7** specified funds would be spent to advance career readiness
Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment

- **36 states** reinforced the idea that a “well-rounded education” should include CTE, STEM or dual enrollment

- However, **only 15** described specific state-level activities under Title IV, A

States Leveraging Title IV, A

- Committed funds: 15
- Encouraged LEAs: 21
- No mention: 15
Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

- Twenty states plan to prioritize career readiness in their 21CCLC grant guidelines

Pennsylvania’s priorities for 21CCLC:

- STEM/ STEAM education
- Workforce, career and college readiness
- Planning for transitional vocational/technical services
- High school credit recovery
- Underserved geographic locations

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What’s Next?

- State plan approval
- Implementation of accountability mechanisms
- Local planning
- Distribution of resources to support targeted populations
Thank You

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https://careertech.org/resource/mapping-career-readiness-essa-full