

# College and Career Readiness Standards

Today's workplace requires that all workers be lifelong learners in order to advance in their careers. It is necessary there be a common set of knowledge and skills that all individuals acquire to successfully transition into postsecondary education or the workplace. As individuals select specific career paths, they will then have to focus on the additional knowledge and skills (above and beyond core college and career readiness) they should acquire to be successful in their chosen field.<sup>1</sup>

Since most of the career opportunities for today's students will require some form of postsecondary education, there are many times when students will not be able to acquire the necessary academic, technical or employability skills in high school that will allow them to be career-ready without further education and training. Additional knowledge and specialization in one or more of these areas is often required either immediately after high school or in the future, depending on a student's career choices.<sup>2</sup>

Content standards that define what students are expected to know and be able to do to enter and advance in college and/or their careers comprise the foundation of a POS.

Rigorous college and career readiness standards should:

- Be developed and continually validated in collaboration with secondary, postsecondary, and industry partners.
- Incorporate essential knowledge and skills (i.e., academic skills, communication, and problem-solving), which students must master regardless of their chosen career area or POS.
- Provide the same rigorous knowledge and skills in English and mathematics that employers and colleges expect of high school graduates.
- Incorporate industry-recognized technical standards that are valued in the workplace.
- To the extent practicable, be internationally benchmarked so that all students are prepared to succeed in a global economy.

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<sup>1</sup> "What is College and Career Ready"? National Associate of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium, March 2010.

<sup>2</sup> "What is Career Ready"? Association for Career and Technical Education, April 2010

## College and Career Readiness Standards

### Self-Assessment Ranking of Current Implementation Status and Importance to Your Implementation

Rank your development and implementation progress for College and Career Readiness Standards according to the measurement criteria listed. Determine the level that most closely aligns with the progress made toward College and Career Readiness Standards implementation. The self-assessment is intended to be an authentic gauge of actual implementation. Results from the self-assessment can be used to target areas for technical assistance and professional development. An analysis of the level of importance can assist in establishing the priority and possible timeline for implementing technical assistance and scheduling professional development.

Implementation Characteristics	Current Status	Importance
The program of study is fully aligned with state academic standards for reading, mathematics, and science.	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Operational	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Critical
The program of study is aligned with employer and postsecondary standards and CTE students complete a challenging core curriculum.	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Operational	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Critical
The program of study is aligned with current technical content standards validated through the national career cluster knowledge and skill statements, or other third-party review, and students complete a sequenced CTE curriculum.	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> In Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Operational	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Critical
Overall Status Summary	Current Status	Importance
After considering each of the implementation characteristics, please rank: 1) your current status of POS College and Career Readiness Standards implementation; and 2) the level of importance this element has to your POS implementation. Transfer these rankings to the Self-Assessment Summary to compare the status and importance of this element to the other POS framework elements.	❶ None	❶ Low
	❷ In Progress	❷ Important
	❸ Operational	❸ Critical

## College and Career Readiness Standards—Implementation Capacity Analysis

### Self-Assessment Reflection and Action Planning

In the section below, identify your current capacity assets in the area of **College and Career Readiness Standards** by responding to the question prompts. Give equal analysis to local capacity barriers, items of critical importance, and steps needed to remedy these capacity concerns.

State or Local Self-Assessment	Items of Critical Importance/Action Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What's working well that is worth keeping?</li> <li>What goals do you have to sustain and enhance the level of collaboration among the partners?</li> <li>What strategies will you use to sustain the engagement of partnership members?</li> <li>How will you know if your partnership is being successful?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What will be new or needs to be revised?</li> <li>What strategies will you use to address items identified as being of critical importance?</li> <li>What are the indicators you will use to measure your improvement?</li> <li>How will you know if you are successful? And when?</li> </ul>
Notes	Notes