College Readiness Standards for Nevada

February 11, 2011
The College Readiness Task Force

- An ad hoc 16-member task force
- NSHE and the Nevada Department of Education led the way with the support of West Ed
- *IES Practice Guide: Helping Students Navigate the Road to College* provided the momentum for establishing college readiness standards for Nevada

The courses students take in high school have important consequences for their academic preparation and access to college.
A National Movement

- 47 states and the District of Columbia have established college readiness standards as of January 2011
  - Up from 20 states in January 2009
  - Up from 3 states in 2005

- Other facets of this movement include
  - Raising high school graduation requirements
  - Assessments measuring college readiness
  - P-20 data systems
A National Movement

State Progress on Adopting College and/or Career-Ready Policies

- Accountability: 1
- P-20 Data Systems: 22
- Assessments: 14
- Graduation Requirements: 21
- Standards: 48

Number of States

Source: Closing the Expectations Gap 2011; Achieve, Inc.
Common Core State Standards

How will Nevada’s College Readiness Standards relate to the Common Core State Standards?

- Core standards will establish content within courses at a rigorous level.
- Core standards will eventually given Nevada tests to assess students readiness for college.

College Readiness Standards and the Common Core are essential!
Why is this Important?

Transition and Completion Rates from 9th Grade to College, 2008

For every 100 Nevada 9th Graders

of these, 48 graduate high school

of these, 26 will enter college

Nevada graduates only half the students compared to the national average.

Only one in ten 9th graders in Nevada will achieve a college education.

of these, 18 will still be enrolled in their sophomore year

of these, only 10 will graduate within 150% time.

Source: higheredinfo.org
**Why is this Important?**

College Professors and Employers Report Significant Percentage of High School Graduates Unprepared

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduates Not Ready for College-Level Work</th>
<th>Graduates Not Ready for Jobs Beyond Entry-Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why is this Important?

Knowing What They Know Today, Many Graduates Report They Would Have Worked Harder in High School

Charge of the Task Force

... to identify and define college readiness standards

Establishing a framework for communicating with students, parents, and high school counselor what it means to be college ready

... workforce standards to come later
Background Work

- **Review of existing standards**
  - Millennium Scholarship
  - University admissions
  - NSHE remedial policy

- **Review of other state actions**
  - Outline of a High School Course of Studies (KY, KS)
  - Definition of Content Standards (TX, NE, VA)
  - Use of Standardized Tests (OK, KY)

- **State Scholars Initiative**
  - Recommends “two years of a language other than English”
The **State Scholars Initiative** is a national program, operating in states across the country, which utilizes business leaders to motivate students to complete a rigorous course of study in high school, one that will give them a boost in college and their careers.
“College readiness” means the demonstrated proficiency of a high school graduate to participate and succeed in an academic program leading to completion of a 2-year or 4-year college degree program.
Nevada College Readiness Curriculum

1. The Nevada Advanced Diploma, and

2. At least 2 years of course work in the same foreign language or demonstrated proficiency to speak at least two languages.
The Nevada Advanced Diploma
Awarded after attainment of 3.25 GPA in a 4-year high school curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English, including reading, composition, and writing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Social Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; humanities, or career and technical vocation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health education</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of computers</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL UNITS</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Nevada Administrative Code 389.663_
# A Quick Comparison of Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>University Admission Course Requirements</th>
<th>Millennium Scholarship Core Curriculum</th>
<th>Nevada’s College Readiness Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Social Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The **State Scholars Initiative** identifies foreign language as essential to a rigorous high school curriculum

1. **Academic**: higher performance on standardized tests and in college
2. **Economic**: essential for American workers as they compete in the global marketplace
3. **Homeland Security**: essential to U.S. national security
National research shows that foreign language studies in high school have many benefits beyond the academic content of the courses themselves.

- Higher academic performance at the college level;
- Higher scores on standardized tests;
- Increased ability to hypothesize in science; and
- Improved linguistic skills, memory, problem-solving ability, and verbal and spatial abilities.

Source: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
The successful completion of the standards for college readiness is considered to be a strong indication that a student is ready to participate successfully as a freshman in college.

**Acquired Skill Set**

- Cognitive skills such as logical reasoning,
- Study habits and self-direction,
- Expectations for behavior in an academic environment, and
- Adequate test scores enabling a pupil to avoid being placed in remedial classes as a postsecondary student.  

*(Title 4, Ch. 16, Sec. 1)*
Nevada College Readiness Curriculum

It’s a communication tool!

Nevada’s college readiness standards are designed to alert students and parents of the best possible preparation for college. They are not to be construed as requirements for admission to an NSHE institution or otherwise.

1. The Nevada Advanced Diploma, and

2. At least 2 years of course work in the same foreign language or demonstrated proficiency to speak at least two languages.