

California's New School Accountability System:  
Key to the Expansion of High School College/Career Counseling

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Reforming California College and Career Efforts

- California began a major transformation of its education system in 2014, adopting a new accountability system changing the way the state evaluates school performance.
- This major overhaul has brought new opportunities for identifying and supporting college and career readiness.

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The Journey  
...and what we can learn from it.

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Statistics

There are nearly 7 million K-12 students in California's public schools.

1,943,939 are in grades 9-12.

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Historically

Prior to this time the State of California has measured local school success based on only one factor: test scores.

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The call for change

California's law enforcement, business and retired military leaders know that preparing students to be college and career ready is essential to public safety, a strong workforce, and national security. Students who do not graduate from high school—or graduate unprepared for college or career—are more likely to engage in criminal activity, be unemployed, and are often ineligible for military service.

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Now – multiple measures that include college and career readiness

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College and Career Measures

- Career Technical Education Pathway Completion
- Grade 11 Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in ELA and mathematics
- Advanced Placement Exams
- International Baccalaureate Exams
- College Credit Course (formerly called Dual Enrollment)
- a-g Completion
- State Seal of Biliteracy (New)
- Military Science/Leadership (New)

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What is the Purpose of the College/Career Indicator?

The College/Career Indicator (CCI) was designed to emphasize that a high school diploma should represent students completed rigorous course work and are prepared for college AND career postsecondary options.

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The discussion began with defining the terms and components associated with “college and career ready”

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### Decision Makers Discussed

- A broader range of measures is necessary to capture college and career readiness.
- Not all students need the same set of knowledge and skills to succeed in college and careers.
- Profiles of student strengths and weaknesses in relation to specific postsecondary programs of study would allow for better matches between students and programs and would enhance student success.

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### California’s Deliberation

- College and career readiness can be defined along a continuum from narrow to broad from unidimensional to multi-dimensional.
- A more expansive definition is more challenging to measure but yields more accurate data at the state level and more actionable information at the school and student level.
- A narrow definition is easier to measure and may be useful at a state level as a gross indicator of readiness but is far less useful at the individual student level.
- College readiness and career readiness are not exactly the same, but the commonalities are sufficient for developing simultaneous measures.

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Researchers define college and career ready?

Conley, 2007, 2010

- The level of preparation a student needs in order to enroll and succeed without remediation in a credit bearing course at a postsecondary institution that offers a baccalaureate degree or transfer to a baccalaureate program,
- And/or in a high-quality certificate program that enables students to enter a career pathway with potential future advancement.
- And/or success is defined as completing the entry-level courses or core certificate courses as a level of understanding and proficiency that makes it possible for the to consider taking the next course in the sequence or the next level of course in the subject area or of completing the certificate.

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ACT, 2008

The level of achievement a student needs to be ready to enroll and succeed without remediation in credit bearing first-year postsecondary courses.

Postsecondary means primarily two-year or four year institutions, trade schools and technical schools.

Workforce readiness demands the same level and skills as college readiness.

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CA Career Technical Education organized around 15 industrial sectors

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The California 15 Industry Sectors Careers

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Well Prepared Students...

Complete one of the following from categories 1-6:

1. Career technical education pathway completion with "C" or better, plus one other measure below:
  1. Score at Level 3 on either the math or English sections of the 11<sup>th</sup>-grade Smarter Balanced Assessment
  2. Complete at least one semester of dual/concurrent enrollment in community college courses
2. Score at Level 3 on both the math and English sections of the 11<sup>th</sup>-grade Smarter Balanced Assessment
3. Complete two semesters of dual/concurrent enrollment in community college courses
4. Earn a 3 or higher on at least two AP exams
5. Pass at least two International Baccalaureate (IB) exams
6. Complete the *Advanced Placement*, which are the courses required for UC/CSU admission, plus one other measure below:
  1. Complete a CTE Pathway
  2. Score at Level 3 on either the math and English sections of the 11<sup>th</sup>-grade Smarter Balanced Assessment
  3. Complete at least one semester of dual/concurrent enrollment in community college courses

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Results so far...

- The number of school counseling staff statewide (28%) increased (Approximate 3,250 additional school counselors in three years).
- Increased attention key state decisionmakers are paying to research-based strategies and best practices in junior high and high school to provide effective college and career programs.
- Model implementation strategies have begun to emerged.

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## Aligning Learning & Support and Accountability Measures

**REAL LEARNING AND A RIGOROUS NATIONAL MODEL**

**CONCEPT**

Establishing a foundational knowledge of content and skills that is essential for the next steps in the learning process, the next steps in the learning process are the next steps in the learning process. The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Model of Comprehensive School Counseling Program (2015) provides a framework for school counselors to support students in achieving their academic, career, and social-emotional goals. This model is based on the research and best practices of school counseling and is designed to be a guide for school counselors in their work.



**Figure 1.**

**ASCA Model of Comprehensive School Counseling Program (2015)**

**Figure 2.**

**ASCA Model of Comprehensive School Counseling Program (2015)**

**Foundational**

When the foundation is not solid, the building is not secure. The foundation of a school is the knowledge and skills that students need to succeed in the 21st century. This knowledge and skills are the foundation of a school's success. The foundation of a school is the knowledge and skills that students need to succeed in the 21st century. This knowledge and skills are the foundation of a school's success.

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### Next Steps

- Continuous improvement plan
- Professional development to improve college/career readiness strategies
- Consultation with districts

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