

# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS DEFINITION

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College and Career Readiness means students exit high school prepared for success in a wide range of high-quality post-secondary opportunities. Specifically, college and career readiness refers to the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed to be successful in post-secondary education and/or training that lead to gainful employment. Today's workplace requires that all workers be lifelong learners in order to advance in their careers. Therefore, it is necessary that there be a common set of knowledge and skills that all individuals acquire to successfully transition into post-secondary education or the workplace. Students' goals, desires, and interests influence the precise knowledge and skills necessary to be ready for success in their chosen post-secondary endeavors and the level of education needed to accomplish an individual career aspirations. All students should exit high school with a full understanding of the career opportunities available to them, the education necessary to be successful in their chosen pathway, and a plan to attain their goals.

## COLLEGE READINESS

College readiness involves being prepared to enroll in and successfully complete entry-level, credit-bearing, academic programs at two- and four-year post-secondary schools as well as being equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to transition successfully. This entails having mastered rigorous content knowledge, demonstrated ability to apply knowledge through higher-order skills, and the ability to navigate the pathways that will gain access to post-secondary opportunities.

## CAREER READINESS

Career readiness involves three major areas: core academic skills and the ability to apply those skills in concrete situations in order to function in the workplace and in routine daily activities; employability skills (such as critical thinking and responsibility) that are essential in any career area; and technical, job-specific skills related to a specific career pathway. These skills allow students to enter career pathways that offer gainful employment and opportunities for advancement.

## DISPOSITIONS

While there may be specific dispositions necessary for individual careers, the basic dispositions for post-secondary success are aligned for both college and career readiness. Supported by research as strongly predictive of academic and lifelong success, these dispositions can be defined broadly as:

- » Interpersonal Skills
- » Responsibility
- » Social Skills
- » Goal Setting
- » Motivation
- » Respect for Self and Others
- » Financial Responsibility
- » Responsible Leadership
- » Decision Making Skills
- » Diverse World View

