No Child Left Behind Waiver Program: How the College Board Can Help
About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.
The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*

The Department of Education has announced its intention to waive central provisions of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act for states that adopt education reforms established by the Department.

To qualify for a waiver of the NCLB requirements, a state must develop a rigorous and comprehensive plan addressing the following three areas designed to improve education outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps and increase equity, as well as improve the quality of instruction.

1. Transitioning to college- and career-ready (CCR) expectations for all students
   To request ESEA flexibility, a state must have already adopted CCR standards in reading/language arts and math.

2. Developing systems of differentiated recognition, accountability and support
   Under ESEA flexibility, a state will establish a differentiated recognition, accountability and support system that gives credit for progress toward CCR.

3. Evaluating teacher and principal effectiveness and supporting improvement
   To receive ESEA flexibility, states will set basic guidelines for teacher and principal evaluation and support systems. Performance will be assessed based on multiple valid measures, including student progress over time and multiple measures of professional practice, and states will use the systems to provide feedback to teachers on how to improve instruction.

*For more details related to the ESEA act and NCLB state waivers, go to http://www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility.

The College Board: Partner for State Education Leaders

With a commitment to ensure that every one of the nation’s students has the opportunity to elevate their knowledge and skills to rigorous academic levels, the College Board is prepared to provide ongoing support to all states to address the new guidelines for No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

The College Board addresses the diverse challenges of every state’s needs by offering customized approaches, through various models, to meeting the NCLB waiver requirements. By utilizing proven tools, resources and programs that have been rigorously researched and developed and have a positive, measurable impact on students’ educational performance, the College Board is ready to equip states with programs and services that can be used to address waiver requirements and foster student success.
Model One
College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students

A Pathway to Performance
To demonstrate that schools in your state have college- and career-ready expectations, it’s critical to adopt and administer acceptable standards, aligned with Common Core State Standards that provide an effective measurement of student growth.

The College Board’s College and Career Readiness Pathway is a series of integrated diagnostic assessments that measure a student’s college and career readiness from the eighth through the 12th grades. When these assessments — ReadiStep™, PSAT/NMSQT® and SAT® — are used as a comprehensive solution, they systematically and progressively measure the reading, writing, and mathematical knowledge and skills that are critical for success in college and careers.

These three assessments culminate in the SAT, which yields a research-based College Readiness Benchmark that gives administrators and educators actionable feedback. Each assessment measures the same constructs, uses similar question formats and has similar score scales. The constructs are linked to provide a vertical articulation of college readiness, strongly aligning with the Common Core State Standards. The feedback and tools within this resource help students improve their skills and enable immediate academic intervention by teachers to enhance learning — all important in the drive to support college and career readiness.

College and Career Readiness Pathway
- Aligns to Common Core, state and NAEP standards
- Produces a college readiness benchmark score
- Predicts success in Advanced Placement® course work and exam
- Qualifies students for National Merit Scholarships
- Offers a respected college entrance credential
- Provides valuable diagnostic reports for states and districts

Three Assessments — One Powerful Tool

ReadiStep: Intervening Early
A benchmark assessment for eighth grade, providing early feedback to help students identify the skills they need to be college ready.

PSAT/NMSQT: Identifying Opportunity
A diagnostic assessment for 10th–11th grades, identifying probable success in AP and areas of opportunity for improved college readiness.

SAT: Providing College Access
A college admission assessment for 11th–12th grades, providing insight into the ultimate measure of a student’s level of college readiness and success upon graduation from high school.
Model Two
Additional Diagnostic Information About Low-Performing Students

ACCUPLACER®: Another Step on the Path to Success

To enable instructional intervention within schools needing additional opportunities to enhance academic performance beyond what is provided in Model 1, the College Board’s College and Career Readiness Pathway can be supplemented through the implementation of ACCUPLACER®.

Used by over 1,300 institutions worldwide, ACCUPLACER is a suite of computer-adaptive assessments that quickly and accurately assesses reading, writing and math skills to diagnose, intervene and assist in planning an appropriate schedule of course work that will give students the greatest chance of success.

ACCUPLACER tests provide institutions with a more detailed assessment of a test-taker’s skills in English and mathematics. These tests can be administered after the PSAT/NMSQT as a way to provide additional proficiency analysis.
Model Three
Measure and Report College Level Rigor

AP®: Advancing Student Success

States with large numbers of higher-performing students can leverage their use of the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) to illustrate that they are actively and successfully fostering a college-going culture.

AP is a rigorous academic program built on the commitment, passion and hard work of students and educators from both secondary schools and higher education. Comprised of more than 30 courses across multiple subject areas, each one is developed by a committee of college faculty and AP teachers, to include the breadth of information, skills and assignments found in the corresponding college course.

A proven measure of success, for over 50 years AP has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and exams as well as to earn college credit or placement while still in high school, providing additional cost savings benefits especially valuable today. Additionally, a recent study found that AP students had better four-year graduation rates than those who did not take AP.

Students who pass an AP course are three times as likely to complete college.

For Your Reference

Every year, the AP Program compiles a vast amount of data on AP Exam participation, performance and volume that can be used to compare and contrast AP Exam takers worldwide. The reports include detailed data separated into categories that can be used to evaluate relative performance during a single school year or over a span of years to help administrators and chart overall progress toward school and district goals.

Schools also receive the AP Instructional Planning Report. This report helps AP teachers analyze students’ performance on AP Exams and identify areas in their AP courses that might need more concentration. Administrators can use the data on all these reports to understand their students’ performance on the AP Exams and chart overall progress toward school and district goals.

AP Potential™

Based on research that shows strong correlations between PSAT/NMSQT scores and AP Exam results, AP Potential™ is a free, Web-based tool designed to increase access to AP and is appropriate to use in Models 1 and 3.

According to College Board research published in 1998 and 2006, PSAT/NMSQT scores are useful in identifying students who may be successful on AP Exams. These studies show that PSAT/NMSQT scores are stronger predictors of students’ AP Exam grades than the more traditional factors such as high school grades, grades in previous same-discipline course work and the number of same-discipline courses a student has taken.
The College Board College and Career Readiness Benchmark

A Valid Measure of Student Success

As high school graduation rates across the country continue to decline, there is an obvious need for a standardized measurement of college readiness — a tool that can provide immediate, actionable feedback to leaders in state education. The College Board College and Career Readiness Benchmark provides a reliable aggregate measure of college and career readiness, allowing states to improve academic programs that prepare groups of students for success in college.

Pathway Benchmarks for College and Career Readiness

Setting the Bar

The Benchmark is the result of rigorous research that analyzed the scores and college performance of a diverse, nationally representative student sample. The research identified the score associated with a target level of college achievement. Educators can use the Benchmark to determine what proportion of their student body is college ready and how that proportion changes over time. This information helps to determine whether changes in curriculum and instruction are having a positive impact on student performance.

It is important to note that college readiness is a continuum, and students who score below the Benchmark may still be successful in college, especially with additional preparation and perseverance.

The Benchmark

RIGOROUS

- Provides a fair and valid snapshot of college readiness for groups of students
- Developed by a trusted leader in college readiness and quality educational assessment

MEANINGFUL

- Designed specifically for secondary school administrators, educators and policymakers
- Reduces the need for costly college-level remediation programs
- A tool that can be customized to address specific educational reform needs and challenges

ACTIONABLE

- Provides essential information for secondary school educators to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs
- Informs and supports curriculum enhancements over time
- Helps identify best practices and effective learning approaches
The Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS)
SOAS provides a detailed review of students’ scores and skill performance, enabling educators to make adjustments to curricula and instructional practices and identify remediation efforts to improve learning. Features within the system give educators immediate and actionable feedback for the classroom.

Score Report Plus
Leveraging PSAT/NMSQT scores as an indicator of whether students are ready for college-level work, Score Report Plus offers detailed feedback on students’ academic skills to help them prepare for college.

SAT Skills Insight™
Provides real SAT questions and answers, suggestions for improvement, and guidance on how students can sharpen their skills. It also highlights the academic skills that are tested on the SAT and needed to succeed in the classroom and college.

ACCUPLACER®
Enables personalized instructional intervention and enhanced academic performance, reducing the need for remediation in higher education.

My College QuickStart™
A personalized college planning tool that gives PSAT/NMSQT test-takers a wealth of information about their test results, informs how they prepare for the SAT and enables them to find the best college and career matches, based on their strengths and areas of interest.

SAT Readiness Program™
*Interactive instruction, official practice tests, district- and school-level reporting, and lesson plans*
*The Official SAT Online Course™ is the only online course developed by the test maker.* Students can use the course outline as a syllabus for the classroom or as a guide for self-paced study. Additionally, a variety of exclusive free practice tools that are based on the real tests to help students get ready for the SAT and SAT Subject Tests™ can be found at sat.collegeboard.org/practice.

ACCUPLACER®/MyFoundationsLab®
Designed to identify areas of strength and weakness, this revolutionary tool builds a personalized learning path that directs students to tutorials, interactive instruction and practice exercises with instant feedback to master core concepts needed to succeed in college.

Pre-AP® Courses
Curriculum: SpringBoard® is the College Board’s official Pre-AP® program in English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 6–12, and is based on the belief that every student deserves access to rigorous course work that leads to success in AP and college.
Professional Development: A suite of Pre-AP professional development resources designed to equip all middle and high school teachers with the strategies and tools they need to engage their students in active, high-level learning.

AP®
A rigorous academic program made up of courses across multiple subject areas that includes the depth of curriculum found in the corresponding college course.

AP Instructional Planning Report
Informs teachers about areas, within AP curricula, in which their students may need additional help and gives administrators a tool to follow overall student progress toward school and district goals.
How States Are Using College Board Programs

The College Board is driven by a single goal — to ensure that every student has the opportunity to prepare for, enroll in and graduate from college. Across the country, states are benefitting from this mission.

SAT and AP scores are used as an indicator of college success, however, they also serve as accountability measures for meeting adequate yearly progress under No Child Left Behind.

AP Exams and SAT Subject Tests are approved alternate assessments to end-of-course exams.

ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT, AP, SAT and SAT Subject Tests have been approved for locally selected measures of student learning. These measures, which may be based on student achievement or growth, constitute a percentage of a more comprehensive educator evaluation system. This portion must be based on measures of student achievement, which may include student growth.

The challenge for every state is to implement effective strategies that raise expectations for all students and prepare them for success. Considering the diverse student populations served across the country, coupled with the wide-ranging issues each population brings to the classroom, a tailored approach to meeting the needs of all students is critical. The College Board possesses the skills, the experience and an unwavering commitment to delivering appropriate programs and resources necessary for ALL states to meet their respective challenges and ensure student success.
For more information on how the College Board can help you meet the requirements necessary to receive a waiver for the No Child Left Behind Act, contact your College Board regional representative.