College Readiness Index The College Board Higher Education Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council August 19, 2010

# Students are college ready when they have the knowledge, skills and behaviors to successfully complete a college course of study without remediation.

### **The College Readiness Index**

The College Board's College Readiness Index uses three measures of high school performance to provide a more complete picture of student performance than an index based on test scores alone. All three measures have been shown to be related to college performance:

- High School Grade Point Average
- SAT scores
- Academic Rigor Index (academic intensity)

### **College Readiness Index Benchmark Scores**

In order to be considered college ready, a student must obtain all three of the benchmarks.

High School Grade Point Average	B+ (3.33)
SAT Benchmark	1550
Academic Rigor Index	10 (0-25 scale – see Appendix A)

# **College Readiness Index Limitations**

- The College Readiness Index is not designed for high stakes decisions such as college admission or school accountability. The College Readiness Index and other similar metrics are convenient methods of describing aggregate data and groups of students in a school, district or state.
- High School Grade Point Average and the Academic Rigor Index are based upon self-reported data. While research has indicated that self-reported data are reliable and accurate indicators of student behavior (Freeberg, 1988; Kuncel, Credé and Thomas, 2005), the self-reported nature of the data does impose some restrictions on the interpretation of the index.
- The ability of the College Readiness Index to be a useful tool is dependent on the number of students that take the SAT. In schools, districts or states where a **significant majority** of students have taken the SAT, the college readiness metric should be representative and accurate as an indicator of college preparedness.

# **College Readiness Index Full Research Report**

The Development of a Multidimensional College Readiness Index by Andrew Wiley; Jeff Wyatt; Wayne J. Camara http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/pdf/10b\_2084\_DevMultiDimenRR\_WEB\_100618.pdf



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# **SAT Skills Insight**

The SAT Skills Insight provides students, parents, and educators with a detailed description of the skills and knowledge that a student demonstrates mastery of based on the student's SAT score.

Critical Reading 500-590 Determining the Meaning of Words

*SKILL 1*: Use the context of a sentence or larger section of text to determine the meaning of unknown words or to differentiate among multiple possible meanings of words

*SKILL* 2: Understand how syntax (the arrangement of words and phrases in a sentence) influences the relationship among words and ideas within a sentence

SKILL 3: Demonstrate increased comprehension of specialized vocabulary

For a complete overview of the SAT Skills Insight: http://sat.collegeboard.com/practice/sat-skills-insight

# **PSAT/NMSQT** College Readiness Benchmarks (research report in press)

PSAT/NMSQT test scores associated with a 65% likelihood of meeting the SAT or 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/NMSQT benchmark by section and PSAT/NMSQT composite.

	Critical Mathemat		Writing	PSAT/NMSQT Composite	
	Reading				
11 <sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/NMSQT	50	50	49	152	
10 <sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/NMSQT	49	47	48	145	



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# Appendix A

### English Scale (0 to 5 points)

Course work (1 point)

 A student is awarded 1 point for having taken four years (excluding courses taken concurrently) of English in grades 9–12 (0/1)

Honors/AP/Dual Enrollment (4 points)

- No honors, no AP = 0
- 1 honors or dual enrollment course, no AP = 1
- 2 or more honors or dual enrollment courses, no AP = 2
- 1 honors or dual enrollment course, and 1 AP = 3
- 2 or more honors or dual enrollment courses, and 1 AP = 4
- 2 AP = 4

#### Mathematics Scale (0 to 5 points)

Course work (5 points)

- A student is awarded 1 point for having taken three years (excluding courses taken concurrently) of mathematics in grades 9–12 (0/1).
- Each class is reviewed and the student is assigned a value of 1 if he or she has taken the class in the grade for which a point is awarded (see chart below) — a maximum of 1 point is awarded for each grade.
- The points earned for grades 9–12 are summed for a total of between 0 and 4 points, and then added to the points awarded for having taken three years of mathematics for a possible subscale range of 0–5.

	9th	10th	11th	12th
None	0	0	0	0
Pre-Algebra	0	0	0	0
Algebra 1	0	0	0	0
Algebra 2	1	1	0	0
Geometry	1	0	0	0
Trigonometry	1	1	1	0
Precalculus	1	1	1	0
Calculus	1	1	1	1
Stats	1	1	1	1
Integrated Math	1	1	0	0
Other Math	0	0	0	0

Honors/AP/Dual Enrollment

 If a student has taken an AP Calculus Exam, he or she is automatically awarded 5 points.

### Science (0 to 5 points)

Course work (3 points)

- A student is awarded 1 point for having taken biology, chemistry and physics (0/1).
- A student is awarded 1 point for having taken three years of science in grades 9–12 (0/1).
- A student is awarded 1 point for having taken four years of science in grades 9–12 (0/1).

Honors/AP/Dual Enrollment (2 points)

- 1 point for having taken any science honors or dual enrollment course
- 2 points for having taken an AP course (0/2)

### The Social Sciences and History (0 to 5 points)

Course work (1 point)

 A student is awarded 1 point for three or more years of Social Sciences (0/1).

Honors/AP/Dual Enrollment (4 points)

- 0 points if no honors, dual enrollment or AP
- 1 point for having one honors/dual enrollment class but no AP classes
- 2 points for having two or more honors/dual enrollment classes and no AP or no honors/dual enrollment and one AP class
- 3 points for having one honors/dual enrollment and one AP or no honors/dual enrollment and two or more AP classes
- 4 points for having at least three combined honors/ dual enrollment and AP courses with at least one honors/dual enrollment course and one AP class

### Foreign and Classical Language (0 to 5 points)

Course work (3 points)

- 1 point for having taken two years of language (grades 9–12)
- 2 points (0/1) for having taken three years of language
- 3 points for having taken four or more years of language

Honors/AP/Dual Enrollment (2 points)

 1 point for each class taken within language honors, dual enrollment course or AP course



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