Strategies for Improving College- and Career-Readiness for All Students

Chad Aldeman
Policy Advisor
Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development
US Department of Education
February 10, 2012
Since 1973, we’ve made no statistically significant gains in 12\textsuperscript{th} grade math achievement. Reading shows similar trends.
Where We Stand

We’re winning the college access battle, but losing the readiness and completion war.

• Over 70% of young people enroll in some form of postsecondary education.

• But 1/3 need some form of remedial course.

• Half of those who enroll fail to earn a degree or certificate of any kind within six years of initial enrollment.

Source: Adapted from the US Department of Education’s Condition of Education
Stagnant high school and college graduation rates have led to a loss in college completion world leadership.

We’re now 16th in college completion.

Source: OECD Education at a Glance 2011
Table A1.3a Population with tertiary education (2009)
After climbing throughout much of the 20th Century, average educational attainment has slowed considerably.

Average Years of Schooling, Native-Born Workers

ESEA Blueprint: College- and Career-Readiness

• Adoption of college- and career-ready standards

• Option to include assessments in other subjects

• Report on college-going and college remediation rates

• Proposed $86 million College Pathways program for:
  o expanding the availability of AP and IB courses
  o dual-enrollment programs
  o “early college high schools” that allow students to earn a high school degree and an Associate’s degree or 2 years of college credit simultaneously
ESEA Flexibility: College- and Career-Readiness

• Adoption of college- and career-ready standards

• Option to include assessments in other subjects in addition to other measures

• Report on college-going and college credit accumulation rates
ESEA Flexibility: College- and Career-Readiness

- In November ESEA Flexibility requests:
  - 10 states added new subjects
  - 6 states would hold schools accountable for AP/IB tests (FL, GA, IN, NJ, NM, OK)
  - 2 states added dual enrollment (IN & NM)
  - 5 states proposed using ACT/ SAT scores (CO, GA, KY, NJ, NM)
  - 3 states proposed using college-going and the need for remediation (FL, GA, NJ)
  - 6 states proposed career-readiness measures (GA, IN, KY, NJ, NM, OK)