



TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Sylvia Lawson, Acting State Superintendent of Schools
DATE: October 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Blueprint Deep Dive: College and Career Readiness Standard Exploration

Purpose

This presentation aims to provide a briefing to the State Board of Education about the College and Career Readiness Standard, the empirical research study, and options, context, and implications for adopting a revised version of the CCR Standard, as directed by the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

Background/Historical Perspective

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future is a historic opportunity to transform education and accelerate student achievement for students across Maryland. The Blueprint requires MSDE to commission an empirical study of the interim College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard adopted by the Maryland State Board of Education in February 2022. To meet the interim CCR standard, students must achieve a qualifying score on both the state grade 10 English Language Arts test and a high school math test.

MSDE contracted with the American Institutes of Research (AIR) to conduct a multi-part study of the CCR standard that included 1) a predictive validity analysis of the interim standard; and 2) a content and standards alignment analysis to determine the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the first year at a community college or 4-year college or university. Results from study were presented to the State Board at the September 2023 meeting.

Executive Summary

The presentation will include:

1. Background on the CCR Standard and Research Study
2. Key Findings from the Empirical Research Study
3. Adopting a New CCR Standard
4. Adoption Timeline and Next Steps

Action

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

Attachments

CCR Standard Revisions - Oct 2023 SBOE.pdf



Revising the College and Career Readiness Standard

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | October 24, 2023

Presented By |

Phil Lasser, Office of the State Superintendent
Matthew Duque, Office of Research, Planning, and Program Evaluation





PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Background on the CCR Standard and Research Study
2. Key Findings from the Empirical Research Study
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Background on the CCR Standard and Research Study

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Information and context on the CCR interim standard and the CCR research study are provided

CCR Standard: Blueprint Statutory Context

- The Blueprint requires a **new College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard** be set that allows graduates to succeed in entry-level credit-bearing college courses. The goal is for **all students to meet the standard by the end of their 10th grade year.**
- Once a **student meets the CCR Standard**, they enter an instructional pathway that builds on the student's strengths. The **Post-CCR Pathways allow students to develop in-depth specialization and/or earn a recognized credential.**
 - **IB Diploma, AP program, or Cambridge AICE Diploma**
 - **Dual enrollment or early college program**, allowing the student to earn an associate's degree
 - **Career and Technical Education (CTE) program**, earning an **industry recognized credential**
- For students that have **not yet met the CCR Standard**, the Blueprint also requires that **CCR Support Pathways are created for students** to meet the CCR standard as soon as possible and then join a Post-CCR Pathway.
 - The Support Pathways are designed to prepare all students to meet the CCR standard before graduation.
- The Blueprint requires the **empirical research study to be completed before the State Board can adopt an updated CCR Standard.**

CCR Standard: Blueprint Statutory Charge and Implications

- The Blueprint directs the State Board to adopt a **CCR Standard that reflects the results of the empirical research study.**
- **Community Colleges shall enroll students who meet the CCR Standard** adopted by the State Board of Education.
- When the Blueprint is **fully implemented** – as determined by the AIB – **only students who meet the CCR Standard may enter Post-CCR Pathways.** Until that point, students may not be blocked from enrolling in courses that are part of a Post-CCR Pathway.

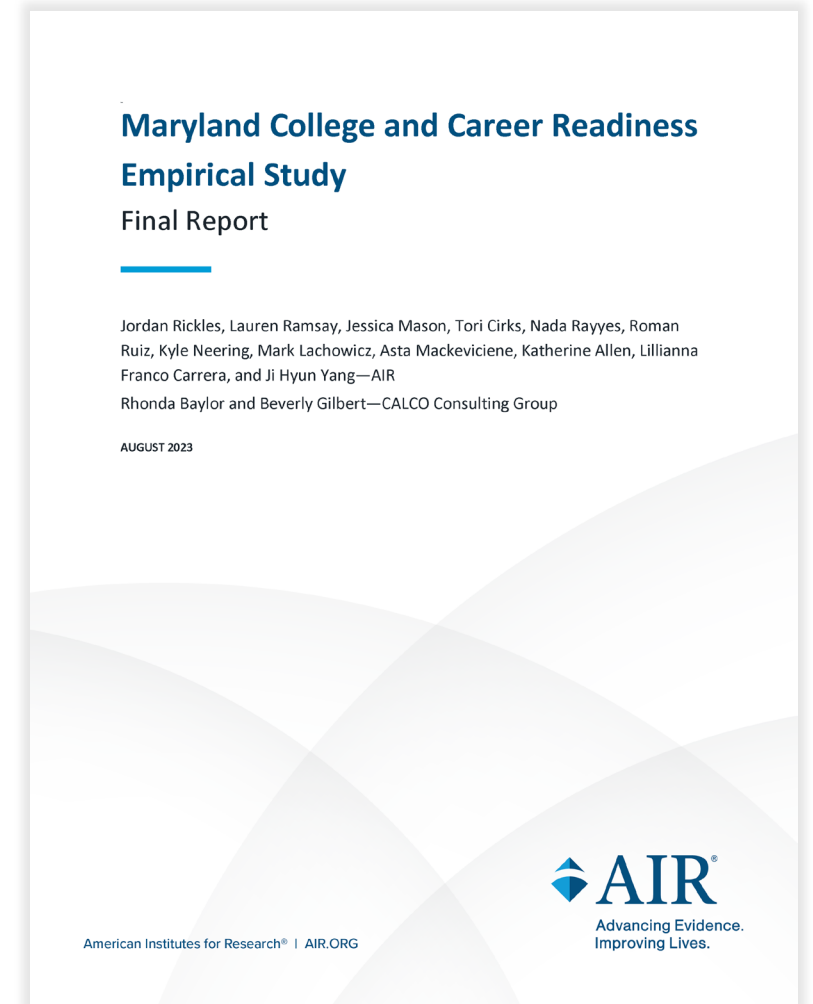
Blueprint Statute Excerpts:

- *“A student shall meet the CCR standard when the student meets a standard in English language arts, mathematics, and, when practicable, science that enables the student to be successful in entry level credit bearing courses or postsecondary education training at a State community college.”*
- *“After the study conducted [...] is complete, and periodically thereafter, the State Board shall adopt a new CCR standard.” “After the empirical study required [...] is complete, the CCR standard shall reflect the results of that study.”*
- *“Each community college and other open-enrollment public institution of higher education shall accept for enrollment in credit-bearing courses any individual who has achieved college and career readiness according to the standard adopted by the State Board.”*
- *“When the Accountability and Implementation Board determines that the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future has been fully implemented, post-CCR pathways shall be available only to students who have met the CCR standard, except under limited circumstances determined by the Board.”*
- *“Subject to [the paragraph above], beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, [implementation] may not preclude enrollment in the initial stages of one or more post-CCR pathways [...], including the opportunity to make progress towards a CTE credential.”*

MD Code, Education, §15-126; §7-205.1

CCR Standard Research Study

- The **American Institutes for Research (AIR)**, a nonpartisan, not-for-profit research organization was chosen to complete the Blueprint-required empirical research study.
- **Report Timeline**
 - December 1, 2022 – Official kickoff of the research study.
 - May 23, 2023 – The **interim report on the predictive validity study** was released and presented to the State Board.
 - July 25, 2023 – The **interim report on the content and standards alignment study** was released and presented to the State Board.
 - September 1, 2023 – As specified in the Blueprint, **AIR submitted the final research report** to the Governor, the Maryland General Assembly, the AIB, and MSDE.
 - September 26, 2023 – Researchers from **AIR presented their findings of the full report to the State Board.**



More information, the full report, as well as related resources are available at:
blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/ccr-research-study/

Stakeholder Engagement (1 of 2)

Stakeholder engagement for the CCR research study consisted of four phases.

Phase I Prior to the Study

MSDE and AIR engaged various stakeholders in the design of the study, including:

- Maryland Higher Education Commission
- Maryland Association of Community Colleges
- University System of Maryland

Phase II As Part of the Study

AIR conducted focus groups and surveys of stakeholders in Maryland on their perceptions of college and career readiness from:

- K-12
- Higher education
- Workforce

Stakeholder Engagement (2 of 2)

Stakeholder engagement for the CCR research study consisted of four phases.

Phase III After the Release of Each Interim Report

MSDE and AIR held **10 listening sessions attended by over 220 stakeholders** including:


- Higher education leaders
- Maryland Association of Community Colleges
- Maryland Higher Education Commission
- Governor’s office staff
- LEA Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents of Instruction/Chief Academic Officers, and Accountability Coordinators

Phase IV Following the Release of the Final Report

MSDE continues to share the study’s findings and recommendations and gather feedback. Engagement sessions thus far have included:

- Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)
- Maryland Council of Community College Chief Academic Officers (M4CAO)

Additional feedback opportunities will continue to be available.

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Key Findings from the Empirical Research Study

The main takeaways from the empirical research study, completed by AIR, are reviewed and discussed.

Key Takeaways From Predictive Validity Analysis (1 of 2)

In the research study, the interim CCR standard identified 40% of students as CCR by the end of grade 10 and was accurate in its prediction less than two-thirds of the time.*

Among students who enrolled in a Maryland college the fall after their fourth year of high school

Percentage of students who met the CCR standard at the end of Grade 10



Percentage of students correctly classified as college ready or not college ready: with postsecondary progress benchmark of at least 12 college credits in first semester



* Calculations based on cohorts of students in grade 10 from 2017 to 2021.

Key Takeaways From Predictive Validity Analysis (2 of 2)

The study found that an **alternative CCR standard** that allows students to demonstrate readiness through **multiple measures by passing exams or earning a 3.0 GPA** is a **better predictor of post-secondary success and is more inclusive.**

Among students who enrolled in a Maryland college the fall after their fourth year of high school

Percentage of students who met the CCR standard at the end of Grade 10




Percentage of students correctly classified as college ready or not college ready: with postsecondary progress benchmark of at least 12 college credits in first semester



* Calculations based on cohorts of students in grade 10 from 2017 to 2021.

Study Recommendations

- In its empirical research study final report, AIR made the recommendation that Maryland should **revise the CCR standard to assess CCR more accurately and equitably**. Specifically, AIR recommends that Maryland:
 - **Provide multiple measures** for students to demonstrate college and career readiness, **including a GPA measure**. This recommendation was a result of findings from:
 - Postsecondary stakeholders
 - Literature on bias in assessments
 - Prior research on predictive validity of measures
 - Predictive validity of the interim standard and alternative standards
 - If a GPA option is included in the CCR standard, **provide guidance to local education agencies** to better standardize and align grading practices across the state.

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Adopting a New CCR Standard

MSDE's proposal for a revised CCR standard, based on the results and recommendations of the empirical research study.

CCR Interim Standard (Current)

- The **CCR interim standard**, that is in effect now, was **specified in the Blueprint legislation and adopted by the State Board of Education** in February 2022.
- A student meets the interim CCR Standard if **they meet or exceed the standards on the state assessments in both English and math.**

Blueprint Interim CCR Standard (Currently in Effect)

English

English 10

- Score 3 or 4 on Fall or Spring MCAP (2022 – present)
- Score 2 or 3 on early Fall 2021 MCAP
- Score 4 or 5 on the PARCC (2015 - 2019)

AND

Math

Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry

- Score 3 or 4 on Fall or Spring MCAP (2022 – present)
- Score 2 or 3 on early Fall 2021 MCAP
- Score 4 or 5 on the PARCC (2015 - 2019)

Or score 520 on the Math SAT

The Maryland State Board of Education adopted the interim standard on February 22, 2022, based on Blueprint Statute.

Proposed CCR Standard

Proposed CCR Standard

SCORE PROFICIENT ON THE ELA 10 AND A HIGH SCHOOL MATH ASSESSMENT
(Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, or an equivalent SAT score)



MEETS CCR STANDARD

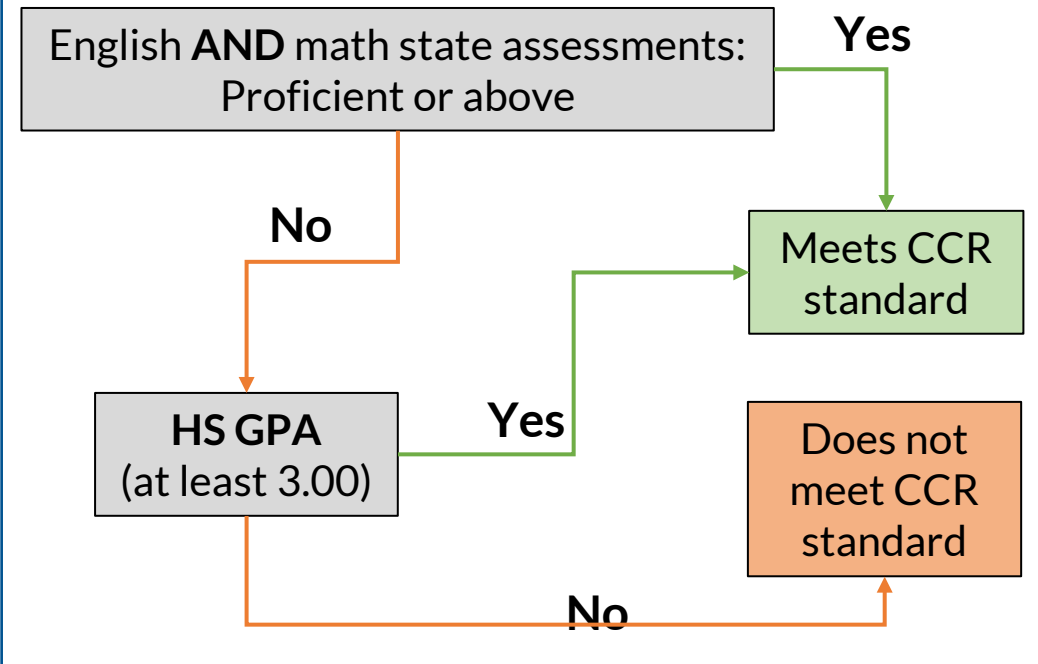
- OR -

EARN A HIGH SCHOOL GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) OF 3.0 OR HIGHER



MEETS CCR STANDARD


Proposed CCR Standard



Proposed Implementation Timeline

As part of the new CCR Standard proposal, the revision may be implemented with this proposed timeline:

- **Student Identification**
 - Based on data up to and including the 2023-2024 school year, eligible 9th-12th students will be identified as meeting the new CCR Standard for the 2024-2025 school year.
- **Data Collection**
 - Data on students meeting the new CCR Standard will be collected in the High School Data Collection (HSDC) beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. The 2023-2024 HSDC collection will include data on graduating classes of 2024-2027.
- **Funding**
 - CCR per-pupil funding amounts beginning with FY26 will be based on the new CCR Standard.
- **Engagement with LEAs**
 - MSDE will continue to engage Local Accountability Coordinators and others at the LEAs to provide detailed guidance and technical assistance as the policy is implemented.

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Adoption Timeline and Next Steps

Opportunities for public input and official State Board adoption of a revised CCR Standard

Adoption Timeline

- October 24, 2023
 - MSDE staff **present policy recommendations** based on the research findings.

Public Input Period

- October 25, 2023 – November 30, 2023
 - **Online Feedback Survey Open**
- November 9, 2023, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 - **Virtual Public Hearing**
- December 5, 2023, State Board of Education Meeting
 - **Planned vote to adopt CCR Standard**

Public Input Opportunities

The State Board of Education wants to hear from you!

- The State Board will be holding a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, November 9th from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm.**
 - A public comment sign-up form to share a 3-minute statement will be available online between November 2 – November 8.
 - Details will be available on MarylandPublicSchools.org/StateBoard
- You can also complete this **online feedback survey** to share your opinions on the CCR Standard: bit.ly/FeedbackCCR

The Feedback Survey, as well as more information, including AIR's final report are available at:

blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/ccr-research-study/



Questions