

2018-19 *Ready Graduate* Indicator User Guide

Section 1: Document Intent

This document guides districts through the new criteria used for the *Ready Graduate* indicator for school and district accountability. In previous years, the *Ready Graduate* indicator has been limited to only ACT data (composite score of 21 and higher and SAT equivalent) to measure postsecondary readiness. For 2018-19 school year accountability, this indicator will include additional criteria that are used to predict seamless transition into postsecondary and the opportunity to secure high-quality employment. These additional criteria are included and explained in this document.

Section 2: Background

The department created this accountability framework in response to the requirements for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The *Ready Graduate* indicator serves as one of six indicators used in the high school accountability model and counts for 20 percent of a school's overall score.¹ The indicator is designed to measure the percentage of students who earn a regular high school diploma and who have met at least one of the measures outlined in detail below. By meeting the measures, students are more likely to experience seamless transitions to postsecondary and the workforce. This indicator also aligns to the governor's initiative, *Drive to 55*, which focuses on improved economic success in Tennessee through increased opportunities to earn postsecondary credentials.

Section 3: Design Overview

3.1 Data Criteria

The *Ready Graduate* indicator includes a variety of criteria that measure postsecondary and career readiness. The percent of ready graduates is calculated by dividing the number of on-time graduates from the cohort who meet the outlined criteria by the number of students in that cohort.

$$\frac{\text{\# of graduates meeting Ready Graduate criteria}}{\text{\# in graduation cohort}}$$

¹ All indicators and subgroups must meet minimum required counts. Schools must have 30 students in the current and prior accountability graduation cohort to be eligible. Please see the [Accountability Protocol](#) for more information about minimum counts for the Ready Graduate indicator.

The *Ready Graduate* criteria include the following four measures for graduates from the class of 2018. To be considered ready graduates, students must meet at least one of the following:

- Score of **21 or higher on ACT** (or 1060 or higher on the SAT); **or**
- Complete **4 early postsecondary opportunities (EPSOs)**; **or**
- Complete **2 EPSOs and** earn an **industry certification**; **or**
- Complete **2 EPSOs and** earn a score of military readiness on **ASVAB AFQT**.

Please note these data for 2018-19 accountability reflect individuals in the graduating class of 2017-18. These data types include the following:

Ready Graduate Criteria	Evidence of Completion
American College Testing (ACT)	Earn a composite score of 21 or higher
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT)	Earn a score of 31 or higher**
Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	Earn a composite score of 1060 or higher
Early Postsecondary Opportunities	
Advanced Placement (AP)	Complete course and attempt exam
Cambridge International Examinations (CIE)	Complete course and attempt exam
College Level Examination Program (CLEP)	Earn a passing score of 50 or higher on exam
Dual Enrollment	Complete course
Industry Certification (IC)*	Earn passing score on exam and/or complete licensure requirements
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Complete course and attempt exam
Local Dual Credit	Complete course and attempt exam
Statewide Dual Credit	Complete course and attempt exam

*An IC could count for additional EPSO credit. Please refer to the [ESSA Industry Certification Conversion Chart](#) for full details.

**Students must earn a minimum ASVAB AFQT score required to qualify for admission into at least one branch of the military as of June 1 following a student's graduation in order to demonstrate military readiness for the indicator. Future years' scores may change based on needs of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). Scores will be determined on June 1 annually for the following year's accountability.

3.2 Data Sources, Requirements, and Visibility

3.2.1 Data Sources for each Criterion

The table below provides an overview of each criterion used to measure the likelihood of a seamless transition to postsecondary and high-quality employment. Additionally, outlined below is the location for districts to view these data prior to the review and appeals process. For more information regarding the number of EPSOs earned, please reference the *Ready Graduate* Indicator Overview. The department encourages districts to view these data using the suggested visibility locations prior to the opening of the Cohort application in January.

Criteria	Source	Requirements for Inclusion	District Visibility
ACT/SAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT, Inc. will provide a score file to the department that includes all students who attempted the exam and their highest score, including scores from national administrations. The College Board will provide a score file to the department that includes all students who attempted the exam on an in-school or national test administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn an ACT composite score of 21 or higher Earn an SAT score of 1060 or higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountability Application Score files sent directly to district from ACT, Inc. and The College Board Individual student score reports

Criteria	Source	Requirements for Inclusion	District Visibility
AP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student information system (SIS) data on course enrollment in AP course codes will be obtained from Education Information System (EIS). The College Board will provide a score file to the department that includes all students who attempted an AP exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete course and attempt exam (no minimum score required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course enrollment located in EIS Score files sent directly to district from The College Board
CIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIS data on course enrollment in Cambridge course codes will be obtained from EIS. Cambridge International Education will provide a score file to the department that includes all students who attempted a Cambridge exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete course and attempt exam (no minimum score required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course enrollment located in EIS Exam data visible through the <i>Ready Graduate</i> viewing platform via the testing file Score files may be available through CIE for districts serving as testing sites
CLEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The College Board will provide a score file to the department that includes all students who attempted a CLEP exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn a passing score of 50 or higher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam data visible through the <i>Ready Graduate</i> viewing platform via the testing file
IB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student information system data on course enrollment in IB course codes will be obtained from EIS. International Baccalaureate will provide a score file to the department that includes all students who attempted an IB exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete course and attempt exam (no minimum score required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course enrollment located in EIS Exam data visible through the <i>Ready Graduate</i> viewing platform via the testing file Score files may be available through IB for districts serving as testing sites

Criteria	Source	Requirements for Inclusion	District Visibility
DE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student information system data on course enrollment in dual enrollment course codes will be obtained from EIS. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) will submit postsecondary student enrollment information to the state's longitudinal data system (P20Connect), which will provide a matched data file to the department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course enrollment located in EIS
LDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIS data on course enrollment in high school course codes that have been appropriately flagged as "local dual credit" will be obtained from EIS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete course and attempt exam (no minimum score required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course enrollment located in EIS
SDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIS data on course enrollment in SDC course codes with appropriate flags will be obtained from EIS. Results of the challenge exam will be provided through the Early Postsecondary Data System. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete course and attempt exam (no minimum score required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course enrollment located in EIS Exam scores located in the Early Postsecondary (EPS) Data System

Criteria	Source	Requirements for Inclusion	District Visibility
IC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination/certifying agencies will provide a file to the department that includes all students who successfully earned a certification. The department will use the state's longitudinal data system (P20Conenct) to match student records. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete all requirements of a specific certification included on department's promoted list, including earning a passing score on any assessment(s) and/or completing licensure application if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual student certifications and/or score reports
ASVAB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. Department of Defense will provide results to districts who will provide data to the department with documentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn an AFQT score² of 31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score file provided by the Department of Defense

3.2.2 Using Course Codes in Student Information Systems for Extract to EIS

Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, specific course codes for AP, IB, Cambridge, and Dual Enrollment are specified in the [Correlation of Course Codes](#) document and in local SIS packages. Beginning in 2018-19, specific codes for Statewide Dual Credit courses were also added. SIS packages also provide a “flag” option for all high school course codes available to be taught as a local dual credit course, assuming an articulation agreement with a local postsecondary institution to provide a culminating challenge exam is in place. For all *Ready Graduate* criteria where course enrollment information is obtained through EIS, a student must be appropriately placed in the correct course code, and/or the appropriate flags must be checked to reflect that the course was offered as an early postsecondary course eligible for postsecondary credit. If a student was enrolled in a course that was eligible for postsecondary credit, but that student is not placed in the correct course code or flagged course section as reflected in EIS, appropriate documentation must be provided through the Accountability application to ensure the student's progress toward *Ready Graduate* is captured. For statewide dual credit, the department provides specific enrollment and flagging instructions to SDC coordinators. For any other questions on early postsecondary course enrollment, please email Early.Postsecondary@tn.gov.

² The “passing” score for military aptitude may change in the future. Annual determination of military readiness will be the minimum ASVAB AFQT score required to qualify for admission into at least one branch of the military as of June 1 following a student's graduation. Future years' scores may change based on needs of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). Scores will be determined on June 1 annually for the following year's accountability.

In addition to secondary student information systems, dual enrollment course information is also collected from the state's longitudinal data system, P20Connect, where it is provided by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission at the conclusion of each semester. To ensure students who successfully earn college credit enrolled at a Tennessee public postsecondary institution prior to high school graduation are captured in this indicator, a student who is identified as completing a course in these data will be given credit for the EPSO, regardless of if they have matching dual enrollment course codes in their high school student information system.

Section 4: Reviewing Data

In mid-January, districts will have the opportunity to review the data provided to the department, as outlined above. This will be available through the Cohort application under the new "Ready Graduate" page. Districts will also have the opportunity to appeal data and provide documentation to prove the student meets *Ready Graduate* criteria on this page. As mentioned in Section 3.1, the data used for the *Ready Graduate* indicator in 2018-19 accountability will be lagged one year and represent those students who graduated in spring 2018. Appeals guidance will be posted at a later time on the Cohort application.