



OVERVIEW

Texas College and Career Readiness Standards

What are the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards?

The Texas College and Career Readiness Standards define what students should know and be able to accomplish in order to succeed in entry-level college courses or skilled workforce opportunities upon graduation from high school.

Who developed the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards?

A law passed by the Texas Legislature in 2006 required development of college readiness standards. The law mandated that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Education Agency appoint vertical teams in the disciplines of English/language arts, science, social sciences, and mathematics. The vertical teams were charged with drafting the standards.

What role did the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board have in developing the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards?

The vertical teams, consisting of teachers and faculty members with subject matter expertise and direct experience in public high school and college classrooms around the state, worked independently to develop the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency, selected vertical team members as required by statute, but had no formal role in the development of the draft standards.

Why does Texas need college and career readiness standards?

The Texas College and Career Readiness Standards articulate a baseline of knowledge necessary for students to successfully participate in college and function in the modern workplace. College and career readiness standards represent the next step in aligning public and higher education curriculum in order to facilitate a seamless transition between high school and college or the skilled workforce. This alignment will reduce the need for remedial education for recent high school graduates and ultimately increase the number of Texans graduating from college.

How are the adopted Texas College and Career Readiness Standards different from high school graduation standards?

High school graduation standards provide a defined, focused set of core skills that should be mastered in a relatively limited and defined set of courses by the time a student graduates from the public school system. The Texas College and Career Readiness Standards, in contrast, are specifically designed to better prepare students to succeed in a broad range of challenging entry-level college courses or skilled workforce opportunities that a student can reasonably expect to experience upon graduation from high school.

What is the difference between the Report of the Commission for a College Ready Texas and the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards?

The Commission for a College Ready Texas (CCRT) was a 21-member panel appointed by Governor Perry in April 2007 to solicit input from Texans on what skills and knowledge a student must possess in order to be college ready, as well as provide expert advice and resources to support the work of the vertical teams developing the college and career readiness standards. The CCRT's report offered contextual data and information to support the need for college and career readiness standards in Texas. Additionally, it included a summary of public feedback received by the Commission as well as an evaluation of an early draft of the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards developed by the vertical teams.

The Texas College and Career Readiness Standards, in comparison, were developed by the vertical teams and provide the actual framework of what is important to know to succeed in college in the four subject matter areas: English/language arts, social sciences, science, and mathematics.

How are the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards organized?

The Texas College and Career Readiness Standards are organized in four levels or areas:

- 1) Key Concept: Such as "Reading"
- 2) Organizing Component: Such as "Comprehend texts of varying lengths"
- 3) Performance Expectations: Such as "Identify the intended purpose and audience of the text"
- 4) Sample Performance Indicators: Such as "Explain how the language of an effective text targets the intended audience"

Are the sample performance indicators provided in the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards prescriptive for all public high school teachers?

No. The sample performance indicators simply provide examples of how students may demonstrate the knowledge and skills outlined in the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards. The inclusion of the performance indicators are designed to provide general guidance on how a teacher might measure a student's knowledge and skills against the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards. They also provide an indication of the rigor with which a subject must be taught to achieve college readiness.

How much of the knowledge and skills outlined in the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards must be mastered in order to be deemed college-ready?

The Texas College and Career Readiness Standards do not represent a learning checklist or a detailed list of all prerequisite knowledge necessary to be college-ready. As a general rule, the more standards a student can master, the more likely the student will be college-ready. Additionally, a student will be better served by mastering individual standards in depth, rather than passing over all of them in a superficial fashion.

Before adopting the standards, did the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Commissioner of Education consider input from the public?

Yes. A draft of the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards was made available to the public for review and comment. The Coordinating Board received close to 1,000 individual and group comments from all sectors of the education community, as well as the general public. The vertical teams reviewed and considered all comments received during the public comment period. When appropriate, this input was integrated into the standards accordingly.

What are the next steps now that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Commissioner of Education have adopted the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards?

As required by statute, the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards were formally adopted by the Coordinating Board on January 24, 2008, with subsequent approval by the Commissioner of Education. The standards have been forwarded to the State Board of Education for ongoing implementation to align the standards with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) curriculum for public education. The Texas Education Agency and the Coordinating Board are completing the second phase involving vertical teams composed of public school and higher education faculty who are assisting TEA in the alignment of standards to the TEKS and development of instructional strategies, minimum standards for curricula, professional development materials, and online support materials. The implementation phase could take several years to fully achieve so school districts, teachers, and students will have time to adjust.

Resources: [Texas College and Career Readiness Standards \(as adopted by the Coordinating Board on 1/24/08\)](#)

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