

Arkansas
Profile of State College and Career Readiness Assessments (CCR) Policy

CCR assessment policy	Beginning in the 2010-11 school year, all 8 th graders will take the ACT’s EXPLORE assessment, and all 10 th graders will take either the ACT’s PLAN assessment or the College Board’s PSAT assessment.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide early benchmarks for student performance on college readiness exams ● Inform educators who assist students with academic achievement, course selection, and college readiness skills ● Provide reportable statewide data ● Increase the number of successful student transitions into postsecondary education ● Meet a state mandate
Major changes in CCR assessment policy since the 2009-10 school year for financial reasons	None
Major changes in CCR assessment policy since the 2009-10 school year for any <i>other</i> reasons	<p>Act 879 of 2011 emphasizes the effective use of CCR assessment data by school districts in order to serve the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide advice which will better prepare students for entry-level postsecondary work in the areas of mathematics, English, and reading; ● Improve diagnostic efforts, counseling, placement, and instruction for secondary school students based on identified needs for college enrollment and placement; and ● Develop guidelines for the establishment of state-funded postsecondary preparatory programs for students identified as scoring below the college readiness benchmark on a CCR assessment.
Grade CCR assessment first administered	EXPLORE- 8 th grade PLAN or PSAT- 10 th grade
State financial support for students to take the CCR assessment	Yes

Is the CCR assessment administered during the regular school day?	Yes
Is the CCR assessment used by postsecondary institutions for undergraduate admission purposes?	No
Is the CCR assessment used by postsecondary institutions for placement purposes?	No
Are exemptions granted on college placement exams for students who meet a certain standard on the CCR assessment?	No
Is postsecondary institution course credit awarded for performance on the CCR assessment in any way?	No
Is the CCR assessment used in any way by potential employers?	No
Impact of adoption of the common standards on state CCR assessment policies	At this time Arkansas is continuing other CCR assessments required by law such as PLAN or PSAT and EXPLORE.