



Working Paper

College and Career Readiness for Wyoming Students

This working draft of a definition for college and career readiness is an effort to focus our statewide dialog about student success around those attributes that will help them make a seamless transition from K-12 through college and into the workforce. By 2022, 65% of Wyoming's workforce needs some type of higher education in order to meet our workforce needs. Better preparation for students at every level will make our State more successful economically and socially. Educated citizens who make a living wage and are satisfied in their careers lead to fewer social and workforce challenges. Agreeing on what it means to be ready to move into college and into the workforce will help us leverage our talent and manage our programs and services to gain the greatest return. Help us by participating in the discussion of what it means to be college and career ready.

Raising the Rigor of Academic Standards: In today's global economy, a high-quality education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity and success – it is a prerequisite. Because economic progress and educational achievement go hand in hand, educating every American student to graduate prepared for college and for success in a new workforce is a national imperative.

President Barack Obama
Remarks to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
March 10, 2009

Preamble

Wyoming students who are college and/or career ready will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities that are necessary to successfully complete entry-level, credit-bearing college courses, participate in certificate or workplace training programs, or enter economically viable career pathways. In order to meet this goal, the state has defined a set of learning competencies, intellectual capacities and experiences essential for all students to:

- Be able to continue to learn, and willing to do so
- Provide positive contributions to their families, workplaces and communities
- Be successfully engaged global citizens

Beyond demonstrating college and career ready levels of competence in English Language Arts, Literacy and Mathematics on a readiness assessment, all high school students should develop a foundation in the academic disciplines identified in the Hathaway Success curriculum. Students must be able to:

- Synthesize information from multiple sources to draw conclusions

- Critically analyze information
- Apply models and technology to real world situations
- Write effectively so that a general or specific audience can understand the information
- Read, understand, and summarize information from a variety of sources
- Solve problems with connections to the standard mathematical practices [1]

Qualities and Strategies

Preparation for college and career should help students develop a wide range of quantitative and qualitative abilities that go beyond the minimum levels of competence needed for entry-level college courses and employment. Students will demonstrate:

- Higher order thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
- The ability to think critically, coherently, and creatively
- The ability to direct and evaluate their own learning, be aware of resources available to support their learning, and have the wherewithal to access these resources when needed.
- Motivation, intellectual curiosity, flexibility, discipline, self-advocacy, responsibility, and reasoned perspectives

Personal & Professional Skills

Student preparation for college and career should emphasize career awareness, exploration and immersion as well as development of the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to successfully navigate the workplace. College and career ready students will demonstrate:

Work Ethic and Professionalism

- Attendance and punctuality expected by the workplace
- Workplace appearance and decorum appropriate for position and duties
- Accepting direction and constructive criticism with a positive attitude and response
- Motivation and taking initiative, taking projects from initiation to completion
- Understanding workplace culture, policy and safety, including respecting confidentiality and workplace ethics

Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills

- Oral and written communication appropriate to the workplace
- Listening attentively and confirming understanding
- Successfully interacting with co-workers, individually and in teams

Proficiency in these skills is common for success in all workplaces and should be viewed as the foundation upon which additional workplace and career skills are added based on the specifics of any job.

[1] As defined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.