

Valuing Career Education Outcomes

Overview

Rhode Island will place a high value on career education outcomes within the revised accountability system under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will submit its Consolidated State Plan for ESSA, including its full accountability proposal, in July 2017. RIDE, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Career and Technical Education Board of Trustees, in consultation with the ESSA Committee of Practitioners, are committed to ensuring that career readiness outcomes and college readiness outcomes are equally valued within the accountability system. The revised school accountability policy will take effect in the 2017-2018 school year.

Issue Presented

By 2020, 70% of jobs in Rhode Island will require some form of postsecondary coursework. Receiving a high school diploma alone will not prepare students for success as it did for earlier generations.

Policy Recommendation

RIDE proposes that up to 25% of a high school's accountability index rating will be based on the number of high school students in the graduating cohort that earn a post-secondary credential or a Council Designation. A post-secondary credential may include earning credit for Advanced Placement, dual- or concurrent-enrollment courses, or receiving an industry recognized credential. A Council Designation may include a Commissioner's Seal or a Pathway Endorsement and will be conferred beginning with the graduating class of 2021, pending the approval of the revised regulations

Additionally, in annual school report cards, RIDE will share data on the success of high school graduates 18 months after they have graduated from high school. This measure will include persistence of graduates in postsecondary education programs, wages earned of graduates who have entered the workforce and the number of students serving in the United States Military.