



About Measures that Matter

At a time when ready for college and ready for careers mean the same thing, it is no longer acceptable for large numbers of young people to graduate from high school without the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. Obviously, our nation's high schools need to change. To do that, states need a new approach to the system of standards, tests, curriculum, and accountability in high school – one that makes college and career readiness the central driver and acknowledges where greater state leadership and resources are essential to success.

Measures that Matter is a joint effort by Achieve and The Education Trust to provide strategic and technical guidance to states in creating a coherent set of policies designed to get all students college- and career-ready. Informed by a distinguished advisory group of state and national experts representing diverse perspectives, the two organizations conducted research and commissioned white papers on critical topics, and emerged with guidance designed to provide states with the best possible advice for advancing their efforts.

States are at very different points in this work. There has been rapid progress in some states, raising high school standards and graduation requirements to align with the expectations of both employers and higher education. Yet even the states that are the farthest along are, at best, only halfway to the goal of a truly aligned system. *Measures that Matter* is designed to help all states, wherever they may be in this process, take the necessary steps to put the full set of pieces in place.

To assist state policymakers in creating new assessment and accountability systems, *Measures that Matter* materials include:

- *Making College and Career Readiness the Mission for High Schools: A Guide for State Policymakers;*
- *Transforming Statewide High School Assessment Systems: A Guide for State Policymakers; and*
- Supporting white papers that review existing evidence and probe technical and policy issues. Current white papers cover topics such as the role of formative and interim assessments, work readiness assessments, early warning indicators and data system needs, and next generation assessment and accountability systems for English Language Learners and students with disabilities.

Measures that Matter was launched in November, 2008, as an ongoing project and additional resources will continue to be added. All materials are available online at www.achieve.org/measuresthatmatter and www.edtrust.org. For more information about *Measures that Matter*, please contact Alissa Peltzman at Achieve (apeltzman@achieve.org) or Daria Hall at The Education Trust (dhall@edtrust.org).