

## **ILLINOIS COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS PILOT ACT**

### Findings and Purpose:

There is a direct and significant link between students being academically prepared for college and success in postsecondary education.

Many students enter college unprepared for the academic rigors of college and require noncredit remedial courses to attain skills and knowledge needed for regular, credit coursework. Remediation lengthens time-to-degree, imposes additional costs on students and colleges, and uses student financial aid for courses that will not count toward a degree.

All high school juniors take the Prairie State Achievement Exam, which contains the ACT college assessment exam. ACT test elements and scores can be correlated to specific course placements in community colleges. Customized ACT test results can be used in collaboration with high schools to assist high school students identify areas for improvement and help them close skills gaps during their senior year. Greater college and career readiness (CCR) will reduce the need for remediation, lower educational costs, shorten time-to-degree, and increase the overall success rate of Illinois college students.

### Goals:

1. Diagnose college readiness. Develop a system to align ACT scores to specific community college courses in developmental and freshman curriculum.
2. Reduce remediation. Decrease the need for remedial coursework in math, reading, and writing at the college level through:
  - a. Increasing the number of students enrolled in college-prep core curriculum.
  - b. Assisting students to improve college readiness skills.
  - c. Increase successful student transitions into postsecondary education.
3. Align high school and college curriculum.
3. Provide resources and academic support to students to enrich the senior year of high school through remedial or advanced coursework and other interventions.
4. Develop an appropriate evaluation process to measure effectiveness of readiness intervention strategies.

### Program:

1. Three-year pilot project
  - a. Budget: \$750,000 per year, appropriated to ICCB for the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Pilot Program.
  - b. Four community college sites in first year
  - c. Expansion in years two and three

2. First year: high school Class of 2008
  - a. ICCB selects 4 community colleges to participate in the CCR program based on:
    - i. Percent of students in developmental coursework
    - ii. Demographics of student enrollment, including socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity, and enrollments of first-generation college students
    - iii. Geographic diversity
    - iv. Willingness of college to submit developmental and introductory courses to ACT for analysis of college placement
    - v. Ability of community college to partner with local high schools to develop CCR readiness strategies and college readiness teams.
  - b. ICCB will work with ACT to analyze up to 10 courses at each participating community college for purposes of determining student placement and college readiness.
  - c. Each participating community college will establish an agreement with high school(s) to:
    - i. Create a data-sharing agreement
    - ii. Create a Readiness Prescription (Readiness Rx) for each student, showing:
      - Readiness status for college-level work
      - Course recommendations for remediation or for advanced coursework in AP classes or dual credit/dual enrollment programs
      - Additional academic support services, including tutoring, mentoring, college application assistance
    - iii. Create CCR teams
      - Comprised of faculty and counselors/advisers from the community college and high school, a CCR Coordinator from the community college, and other members as determined by the high school and college. The teams may include, for example, local business or civic leaders.
      - CCR teams will develop intervention strategies:
        - Use Readiness Rx to develop contract with each student for remedial or advanced coursework to be taken during the senior year.
        - Monitor student progress
        - Provide readiness support services
    - iv. Retest students in spring 2008 to assess progress and college readiness.

- d. ICCB will work with participating community colleges and high schools to develop an appropriate evaluation process to measure effectiveness of intervention strategies, including:
    - i. Baseline data for each participating school
    - ii. Baseline data for the Illinois system
    - iii. Comparison of ACT scores from March 2007 to March 2008
    - iv. Student enrollment in college in fall 2008
    - v. Placement in developmental/regular courses of CCR students in fall 2008.
    - vi. Retention of CCR students in spring semester 2009
  
  - e. ICCB will work with participating community colleges and high schools to establish operational processes and budget for CCR pilot programs, including:
    - i. Employment of CCR Coordinator at each community college site
    - ii. Budget
    - iii. Creation of CCR teams, resources, and partnership agreements
3. Second Year: high school Class of 2009
- a. Analyze courses at 3 new community college sites
  - b. Undertake intervention strategies through CCR teams with students in Class of 2009
  - c. Monitor/assist 2008 CCR graduates in college
4. Third year: high school Class of 2010
- a. Analyze courses at 5 new community college sites
  - b. Add CCR teams at 3 new sites (from year 2)
  - c. Undertake intervention strategies through CCR teams with students of Class of 2010 at 7 sites
  - d. Monitor/assist students from classes of 2008 and 2009 in college.