



ACT® - a college readiness assessment administered by ACT, Inc.

Advanced Placement (AP) - a program created and administered by the College Board that offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. Postsecondary institutions often grant college credit to students admitted to their institutions who scored at a certain level on AP examinations. Not all high schools offer AP courses. For a high school course to earn the AP designation, the course must be audited by the College Board to confirm that it satisfies the AP curriculum requirements.

Career Cluster - a group of related jobs and industries. The National Career Clusters® Framework has defined 16 Career Clusters that include more than 79 Career Pathways.

Career Pathway - a coherent, articulated sequence of rigorous academic and career/technical courses, commencing in the ninth grade and leading to an associate degree, baccalaureate degree and beyond, an industry-recognized certificate, and/or licensure (Hull, 2005). Similar to Career Pathways, Programs of Study, as required under the Perkins Act, define the education requirements spanning high school and postsecondary that lead to an industry-recognized credential, a postsecondary certificate, or an associate or baccalaureate degree in a student's chosen field.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) - a term applied to schools, institutions, and educational programs that specialize in preparing students for careers primarily in skilled trades, applied sciences, or modern technologies. As most CTE professions are increasingly requiring some postsecondary education, CTE programs should offer the academic rigor necessary to prepare students for postsecondary learning.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Concentrator - a student who takes a certain number of credits (the specific number is defined by the state) in a single CTE program area.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Non-Concentrator - a student who takes CTE classes but does not reach the threshold of credits earned in a single CTE program to be considered a CTE concentrator.

College and Career Readiness (CCR) - as defined by the Forum CCR Working Group, a student is college and career ready when he or she has attained the knowledge, skills, and disposition needed to succeed in credit-bearing (non-remedial) postsecondary coursework or a workforce training program in order to earn the credentials necessary to qualify for a meaningful career aligned to his or her goals and offering a competitive salary.

Dual Enrollment - an enrollment agreement in which a high school student takes a course at a postsecondary institution and earns both high school credit and postsecondary credit upon successful course completion.

Early Warning System - a data-based tool that uses specific indicators to identify students who may not be on course to meet their education goals.

ESEA - Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) - a student-directed planning and self-monitoring tool that may be used with students in grades 6-12. The plan includes the student's long-term education and career goals and identifies the coursework and activities needed for the student to reach those goals. ILPs may also be called Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs). ILPs are distinct from Individual Education Plans (IEPs), which are specific to programs provided under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

International Baccalaureate (IB) - a program of study for grades 3-12 designed and administered by the nonprofit International Baccalaureate Organization. Postsecondary institutions generally recognize IB programs as providing rigorous academic preparation for college.

Perkins Act - a federal statute that authorizes grants for CTE programs, most recently reauthorized as the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006.

P-20W Data Governance - the overall management of the availability, usability, integrity, quality, and security of data across multiple state agencies responsible for preschool, K12, and postsecondary education as well as workforce programs.

Postsecondary Feedback Loop - the process in which postsecondary institutions share timely information with K12 education agencies regarding the enrollment and academic achievement of high school graduates enrolled at their institutions. This information is used by K12 agencies to determine the effectiveness of their instructional and support programs.

SAT® - a college readiness assessment administered by the College Board.

Soft Skills - the non-academic knowledge, skills, habits, and character traits needed to succeed in both college and the workplace, such as social and emotional skills and dispositions, and self-management skills. Soft skills are a subset of lifelong learning skills, which may also include technology skills, financial literacy and consumer skills, civic skills, higher order thinking skills, and the ability to apply knowledge in cross-disciplinary contexts.