

Consensus Recommendations for College, Career and Citizenship Readiness

College, career and citizenship readiness is not limited to proficiency in reading and math, but includes all disciplines and the comprehensive knowledge and skills required of students after high school graduation. We believe each student must receive equal access to a credible and comprehensive education that includes instruction in reading, math, science, arts, history, civics, government, economics, foreign languages, geography, health education, and physical education.

Learning in each of these disciplines is essential for any graduate to be considered college, career, and citizenship ready. Delivery of a comprehensive education must be reflected in standards, assessments, accountability systems, and public reporting of achievement must accommodate the needs of students and the expectations of educators, employers and public officials in the 21st century global environment. Schools, local districts, and communities must also have the flexibility to customize education to meet their unique circumstances.

Recent congressionally-approved funding levels have hampered the ability of schools to prepare students for college, careers and citizenship. Moreover, reducing or eliminating funding for these disciplines signals to the public that national decision-makers believe they are not important to student success. A complete education ensures success in the modern workforce and is worthy of being a national priority to support global competitiveness.

Each of these disciplines is crucial to a student's learning in its own right, and none should be considered more important than another. Indeed, the interrelationship between disciplines enhances learning and understanding for each student. Success in school also depends on a student's physical and mental well-being. Finally, training in critical and creative thinking, communication and collaboration is necessary for students to succeed in the increasingly global marketplace and in our own complex and ever changing society.

To achieve these goals, the undersigned organizations call upon Congress to

1. Include all elements of a comprehensive education in any definition of college, career, and citizenship readiness.
2. Maintain discrete and significant funding for each of these disciplines to ensure that each retains federal support individually and that all receive a minimum level of resources reflecting collective support for college, career and citizenship readiness.
3. Promote grant competitions within disciplines, not between them, which prioritizes underserved or high-need schools and students and emphasize best practices, scalability, and cross-subject collaboration and integration.
4. Develop a rigorous evaluation process, including significant input from professional educators, to measure the effectiveness of the funded activities and to propose improvements in the respective grant programs.
5. Establish meaningful public reporting and accountability requirements regarding student achievement in each of these disciplines at the school, district, and state levels.

The following organizations have endorsed the recommendations:

American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
American Association for Health Education
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
American School Health Association
Arts Education in Maryland School Alliance
Arts/Learning

ASCD
Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools
Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
Council for Exceptional Children
Educational Theatre Association
Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
HealthCorps
Illinois Alliance for Arts Education
League of American Orchestras
National Art Education Association
National Association for Music Education
National Association for Sport and Physical Education
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Coalition for Academic Service-Learning
National Coalition for History
National Council for the Social Studies
National Dance Education Organization
Nevada Alliance for Arts Education
Pennsylvania Alliance for Arts Education
School Social Work Association of America
Street Law