

Ready Are Your Students Ready?

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Reading: A National Crisis

Reading, one of life's most essential skills, is used every day in education and the workplace. The nation is facing a crisis in literacy, as millions of Americans cannot read at a proficient level. According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 93 million of the 222 million adults in the United States do not possess the reading comprehension or computational literacy skills needed to train for future jobs.

The problem is getting worse, as only 43 percent of the nation's high school graduates meet the ACT College Readiness Benchmark in reading on the ACT.

WorkKeys assessments, only 27 percent score at the Gold Level on the Reading for Information portion, which measures reading skills needed for 90 percent of careers.

This problem threatens the future of the nation. Fifty-nine percent of U.S. careers require some form of postsecondary education, and this will increase to 65 percent by 2025. Unless high schools act now to ensure all graduates can read for information, we will not meet the workforce needs.

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) has worked with teachers and national literacy experts to create a program to address this crisis, Literacy Ready, which schools are now using. Contact John Squires today to see how your school can implement Literacy Ready and increase the college and career readiness of your graduates.

SREB SOLUTIONS

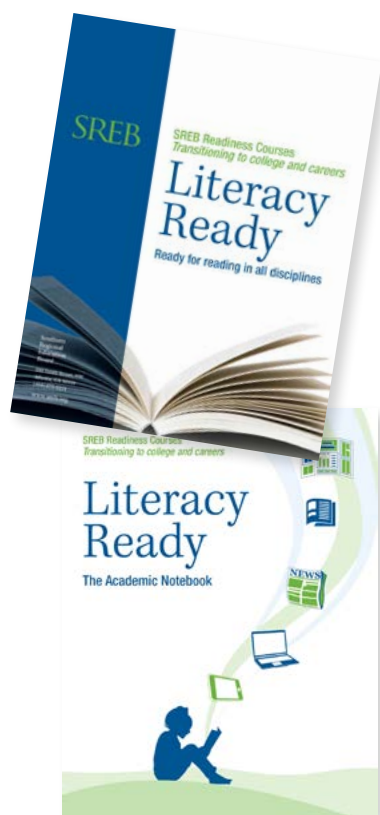
Readiness Courses:

Math Ready

Literacy Ready

Readiness Training

Contact Us



High School Dropouts: Ninth Grade is the Critical Year

According to the journal Education, ninth-graders account for the lowest grade point averages, the most missed classes, the majority of failing grades and more misbehavior referrals than any other high school grade level. Algebra and English have the highest failure rates in ninth grade.

"Ninth-graders' ability to read course texts with fluency and comprehension affects their ability to achieve across many classes. Reading and making sense of information presented in texts is an important component of most tasks that students confront in social studies, science and English. For students who enter high school below grade level, trying to read and comprehend standard high school texts is deeply frustrating, and many simply give up." (Princeton, Brookings 2015)

While the high school freshman graduation rate rose to 81 percent in 2015, the ninth-grade bottleneck among underprepared students must be addressed to sustain improvement. Only then can high schools have a significant impact on graduation rates. SREB is working with teachers and national experts to create Ready for High School courses so schools can address the high failure rates in algebra and English during the ninth grade. Contact John Squires today to see how your school can implement Ready for High School courses.

Readiness Courses: Showing Promise

SREB has developed two Ready for College courses, Literacy Ready and Math Ready. These courses are being implemented in hundreds of high schools in more than 20 U.S. states. The initial results are in, and they show that schools implementing these courses are addressing the readiness gap and preparing their students for college. Below are data from a pilot of Literacy Ready and Math Ready:

- 67 percent of students in SREB Readiness courses improved their ACT composite scores
- 76 percent of Math Ready students showed improvement on their ACT math scores
- 56 percent of Literacy Ready students showed improvement on their ACT reading scores
- 57 percent of students in SREB Readiness courses improved their ACT science scores

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Get Ready: The Readiness Courses Institute

School districts are encouraged to send teams of teachers to the Readiness Courses Institute, which includes registration to SREB's 30th Annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference, July 13-16 in Louisville, Kentucky. The institute will be held July 11-15, 2016, also in Louisville.

The Ready for College courses, Literacy Ready and Math Ready, are offered during the senior year to prepare students for the rigors of college and postsecondary studies.

The Ready for High School courses in Literacy and Math are offered during the eighth or ninth grade to give students a foundation for success in high school.

Attend Two Conferences for One Low Price

- Register for the SREB Readiness Courses Institute; fee is \$250.
- Receive complimentary registration for the 30th Annual High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference, July 13-16.
- The stipend is provided to participants upon completion of training.

Stipends Available for the SREB Readiness Courses Institute

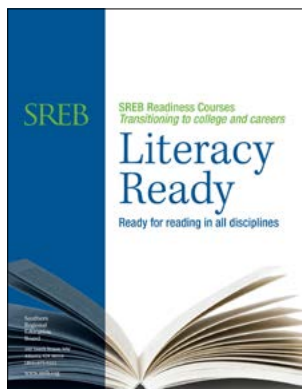
- Register at http://www.sreb.org/page/1214/conference_registration.html
- There is a \$500 stipend available for the first 100 teachers who register for the institute.

District teams of five or more receive an *additional* \$100 stipend per teacher to use toward travel and lodging: A total stipend package of \$600 is available per registrant.

Contact Diane Patterson to register for the Readiness Courses Institute diane.patterson@sreb.org or register at http://www.sreb.org/page/1214/conference_registration.html

Important: SREB encourages schools to obtain the critical teacher training necessary to ensure Literacy Ready and Math Ready are successful and implemented with fidelity.

► **Prepare your students to excel.** Contact John Squires, SREB director of High School to College Readiness, for teacher training in your area. Email: john.squires@sreb.org.

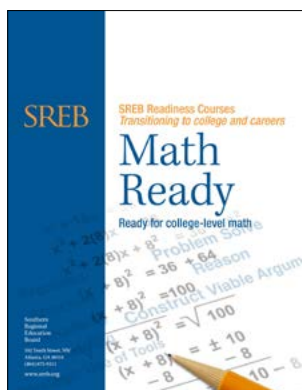


Literacy Ready

[Download Literacy Ready](#)

Literacy Ready – six literacy units, two each in English, history and science – emphasize collaborative learning strategies and interactive classroom activities, such as Socratic seminar and peer evaluation, to help students foster independent goal-setting and strong study habits.

Reading texts at or above grade level, students discover the connection between comprehending text and expressing their knowledge through writing. They then produce authentic and rigorous communications products modeled after informational brochures, science symposia and argumentative essays, and other materials used in college and the workplace.



Math Ready

[Download Math Ready](#)

Math Ready strengthens students' conceptual understanding of mathematics by engaging them in solving real-world applications. The course is built with rigor, innovative instructional strategies and with a concentration on contextual learning that departs from procedural memorization.

Lessons begin with a "hook" to engage students and pre-assess prior math understanding. Several days of tasks delve deeply into math with an emphasis on focus, coherence and rigor. Units include a formative assessment lesson and formative assessment strategies, allowing the teacher to adapt instruction and learning based on students' misunderstandings, obstacles or gaps in learning.

Take Steps Now to Address the Readiness Gap

[Download the SREB Readiness Courses](#)
[Inquire about training for Readiness Courses](#)