

COLLEGE READY | CAREER READY | LIFE READY



2017 ANNUAL REPORT





“Public education in this country has never been better than it is today. It is time for all of us to take back the conversation on public education and proclaim we know best in terms of what public education should look like and how it should be measured.”

Dr. David R. Schuler
2018 National Superintendent of the Year

Dear Colleague,

You would know better than anyone else that students are more than a test score.

Today, our high schools are brimming with innovators – students driven by ideas and dreams. It’s up to us to ensure those dreams become reality.

Two years ago, AASA, The School Superintendents Association launched Redefining Ready! to introduce new research-based metrics and indicators that more authentically and appropriately assess high school graduates’ readiness to survive and thrive in their futures.

Under the leadership of Mort Sherman, Associate Executive Director for Leadership Services and David R. Schuler, an AASA past president and 2018 National Superintendent of the Year®, this initiative focuses on the key indicators that will open more doors for students so they can become college ready, career ready and life ready.

I am pleased to report that AASA is championing the critical issue of redefining college- and career-ready standards so our high school graduates can effectively pursue their postsecondary goals – and dreams – with confidence.

It has been an incredible year for the Redefining Ready! Cohort with tremendous growth for the movement. Across the country, states have included the indicators in their ESSA implementation plans and parents, teachers, administrators and community partners are coming together to have robust discussions about what it means to be ready for life beyond high school. Districts are adapting and implementing the Redefining Ready! indicators with fidelity and transforming the teaching and learning that is happening in our nation’s schools. We are taking back the national narrative about public education and showcasing what works.

I am proud that our national AASA Redefining Ready! Cohort is leading this effort.

This leadership program, now made up of more than 50 school districts from around the nation, is designed to help participants learn how to implement Redefining Ready! within their own school districts and their states.

For years, our education system has relied solely on standardized test scores to define what is best for students following high school graduation. You know better. Our kids are more than a test score. Thank you for changing the culture and leading the way to redefining what a quality education is about.

Sincerely,

Dan Domenech
Executive Director
AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Redefining Ready! Indicators

Redefining Ready! was launched during the 2015-2016 school year to ignite a movement across the country to redefine what it means to be ready for life beyond high school.

This initiative changes the narrative about public education so that the press, pundits, politicians and educational prognosticators would use more than a single test score to define the success of public education.

College Ready Indicators

Students are **College Ready** if they meet either the academic indicators **OR** standardized testing benchmarks listed below.

Academic Indicators

GPA 2.8 out of 4.0 and **one or more** of the following academic indicators:

- Advanced Placement Exam (3+)
- Advanced Placement Course (A, B or C)
- Dual Credit College English and/or Math (A, B or C)
- College Developmental/Remedial English and/or Math (A, B or C)
- Algebra II (A, B or C)
- International Baccalaureate Exam (4+)

Standardized Testing Benchmarks (minimum score)

- SAT Exam: Math (530) | Reading and Writing (480)
- ACT Exam: English (18) | Reading (22) | Science (23) | Math (22)
- College Readiness Placement Assessment (determined by post secondary institution)

Additional Factors that Contribute to College Success

Earning As, Bs, Cs; FAFSA completion; enrollment in career pathway course sequence; college academic advising; participation in college bound bridge programs; senior year math class; completion of a math class after Algebra II.

Career Ready Indicators

Students are **Career Ready** if they have identified a career interest and meet two of the behavioral and experiential benchmarks listed below. In addition, students entering the military upon graduation must meet the passing scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for each branch of the military.

Career Cluster Identified and **two or more** of the following benchmarks:

- 90% Attendance
- 25 hours of Community Service
- Workplace Learning Experience
- Industry Credential
- Dual Credit Career Pathway Course
- Two or more organized Co-Curricular Activities

Life Ready

Being **Life Ready** means students leave high school with the grit and perseverance to tackle and achieve their goals.

Students who are **Life Ready** possess the growth mindset that empowers them to approach their future with confidence, to dream big and to achieve big.

Our nation's schools provide social and emotional support and experiences to equip students with the **Life Ready** skills they will need for success in their future.

From Research to Policy Implementation: The Every Student Succeeds Act

With the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, now known as the Every Student Succeeds Act, states are required to develop and submit implementation plans to the United States Department of Education.

Through the work of AASA and the Redefining Ready! cohort members, 14 of the states, plus Washington D.C., have submitted their plans including Redefining Ready! language with more on the way.



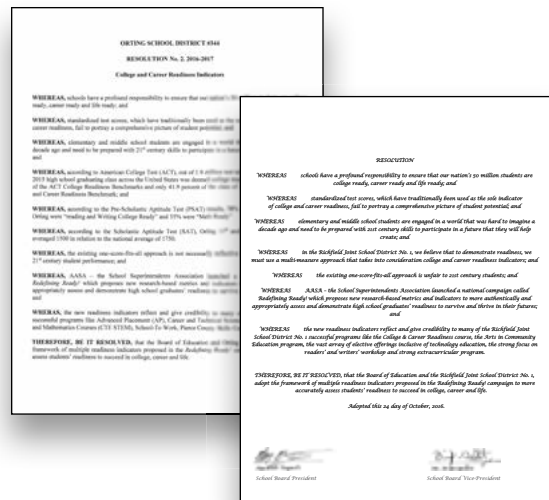
Redefining Ready! was launched under the leadership of David R. Schuler (AASA past president and 2018 National Superintendent of the Year®) and AASA has introduced this initiative in 33 states, plus Washington D.C. and Montreal, Canada.

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|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Alabama | Iowa | New Jersey | South Dakota |
| Alaska | Louisiana | New York | Tennessee |
| Arizona | Maine | New Mexico | Texas |
| Arkansas | Massachusetts | North Carolina | Virginia |
| California | Minnesota | North Dakota | Washington D.C. |
| Colorado | Mississippi | Ohio | Washington State |
| Connecticut | Missouri | Oregon | Wisconsin |
| Florida | Montana | Pennsylvania | Montreal, Canada |
| Illinois | Nevada | South Carolina | |

Redefining Ready! In Action



2018 Redefining Ready! National Scholarship Contest
 Thanks to the generosity of Hobsons, the Redefining Ready! Cohort launched the second year of The Redefining Ready! National Scholarship. Hundreds of America's graduating high school seniors told the world how they are college, career and life ready beyond a single test score and provided examples of completing an internship, success in AP or dual credit classes, near-perfect attendance, or participation in clubs, sports and school activities. The students submitted 30-second video posted to YouTube and shared on Twitter using the hashtag #RedefiningReady and tagging @AASAHQ and @Hobsons.



Redefining Ready! Resolutions of Support
 School boards and local government bodies across the country have adopted resolutions of support stating their belief that today's students, like the global economy, are driven by ideas and innovations. They should not be reduced down to, or defined by, a single test score.

Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Act Sample State Legislative Policy
 According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, as of May 2015, 33 states had adopted a definition of college and career readiness. The definitions are promulgated either through the state legislature, state education agency or Governor's office. Each state defines college and career readiness differently. The Redefining Ready! College and Career Readiness Act is sample legislative policy that can be adopted by state legislatures.

The Year Ahead



The inaugural AASA Redefining Ready! Cohort was incredibly successful. Some of the highlights during our first year include:

- 37 districts joined the 2017-18 Redefining Ready! Cohort.
- 14 states included Redefining Ready! language in their ESSA plans.
- 31 visits were made to states and districts to talk about Redefining Ready!.
- Over 50 districts have signed up to be part of the 2018-19 Redefining Ready! Cohort.

We also are excited about the Redefining Ready! National Scholarship, which encourages America's graduating high school seniors to tell the world how they are college, career and life ready beyond a single test score by focusing on multiple metrics.

Criteria for the scholarship include completion of an internship, taking AP or dual credit classes while in high school, near perfect attendance, or participation in clubs, sports and school activities. This scholarship opportunity is funded by Hobsons.

As we continue to grow and develop, we will focus on:

- Developing a toolkit** for all AASA members that serves as a set of resources and a suggested planning map for districts to be able to implement their own Redefining Ready! plans in their respective districts.
- Building Tactical Teams and a Steering Committee.** This work will be developed in April 2018 so members can meet virtually throughout the year based on needs and expectations.
- Providing ongoing communication and professional learning** for AASA members between our official sessions.

AASA has created a leadership consortium to spread Redefining Ready!'s mission. Co-led by David Schuler and Mort Sherman, the Cohort is designed to help participants network and learn how to implement Redefining Ready! within their own school districts.

In its first year, 37 districts participated in the Redefining Ready! Cohort's meetings in Arlington Heights, Illinois; Oceanside, California; Virginia Beach, Virginia; and at the National Conference of Education in Nashville, Tennessee.

More than 50 districts have currently committed to the second year of the Cohort, which begins April 1, 2018. We encourage you to sign up for the Cohort as you consider professional development opportunities for the 2018-19 school year.

The 2018-19 Redefining Ready! Cohort will meet on the upcoming dates and locations:

- April 23-24, 2018 | Virginia Beach, Virginia
- October 1-2, 2018 | Arlington Heights, Illinois
- February 2019 | National Conference on Education

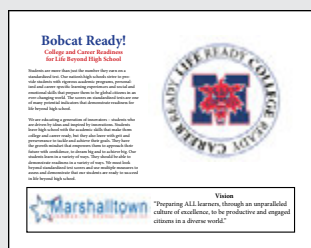
The Cohort is developing a Steering Committee and Tactical Teams to drive the national work of Redefining Ready!. Each cohort member will serve on a Tactical Team and the Steering Committees will consist of one member from each of the Tactical Teams.

Bobcat Ready! How An Iowa School District is Redefining College and Career Readiness

Soon after AASA launched Redefining Ready! in 2015, Dr. Theron Schutte began localizing the initiative to meet the needs of his students and community in central Iowa.

For example, many of the high school students in Marshalltown Community School District work part-time jobs. Dr. Schutte and his team reached out to local employers to get their input on the skills and knowledge needed to be proficient in the workplace and then created an additional career ready metric for assessment.

The District's collective work has led to Bobcat Ready!, a multi-measure approach that reflects all the ways Marshalltown High School students are ready for college and careers beyond a test score. The local Chamber of Commerce and a regional economic development



organization, as well as the District's Board of Education, have officially endorsed Bobcat Ready!, which has reinvigorated the community.

Next year, Bobcat Ready! will be fully implemented in the high school, allowing Marshalltown students to show their postsecondary potential

through metrics such as Advanced Placement, dual credit and Project Lead the Way courses, as well as extracurricular opportunities and several kinds of workplace learning experiences.

The District also is planning to engage middle school students on what it means to be ready for high school and debut a dashboard to help students with their college and career journeys.



A Thank You to Our Inaugural Cohort Members and Supporters

Naviance/Hobsons: Donovan Goode, Joel Sackett and Ellen Wagner

ECRA Group: John Gatta

Forecast5 Analytics: Jeff Carew, Mike English and Misha Kostich

Hobsons: Sponsor of the Redefining Ready! Scholarship

Eric Arbetter, Hazelwood School District
Andrew Ashley, Cedar Ridge School District
David Baker, Special School District of St. Louis County
Wayne Burke, Spring Hill Unified School District 230
Benjamin Churchill, Carlsbad Unified School District
Gerald Cunningham, Vigor High School
John DeWalle, Mehlville School District R-9
Doug Estle, Mobile County Public Schools
Jeff Fastnacht, Ellendale Public School District 40
Cliff Fries, Orting High School
Michael Fulton, Pattonville School District R3
Patricia Greco, Menomonee Falls School District
Anthony Hamlet, Pittsburgh Public School District
Mark Hansen, Elmbrook School District
Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, University City School District
Christopher Himsel, Northwest Allen County School District
Steven Kellner, West Sonoma County Union HSD
Tania Kilpatrick, Co-Op Education Services Agency 6

Eric Knost, Rockwood School District R6
Ann Linson, East Noble School Corporation
Thomas Muzzey, Orchard Farm R5 School District
Lori Rugotska, Co-Op Education Services Agency 6
Laura Schmidt, School District of New Berlin
Marci Shepard, Orting School District
Kevin Steinhilber, Appleton Area School District
Karen Sullivan, Indian Prairie School District 204
Heidi Taylor-Eliopoulos, Chippewa Falls Area USD
David Tebo, Hamilton Community School District
Jeffrey Thake, Amboy CUSD #272
Daniel Thielen, Racine Unified School District
Colleen Timm, Unified School District Antigo
Jim Vaszauskas, Mansfield Independent School District
Marcia Waldron-Kuhn, Mishicot School District
Ken Wallace, Maine Township High School District 207
Nicole Whitesell, Francis Howell School District R3
Jamie Wilson, Denton Independent School District
Jim Wipke, Fox School District C-6
Andrew Wise, Olympia Community Unit School District 16

Other supporters (speakers at meetings) include

Arthur Costa and Bena Kallick, co-founders of Institute for Habits of the Mind

To learn more about the Redefining Ready! Cohort and initiative, please visit the AASA website or www.redefiningready.org.

You can also contact:

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Dr. David R. Schuler, Superintendent, High School District 214 and former AASA President (2015-2016) at david.schuler@d214.org