

Choice Ready Webinar January 11, 2018 Q & A

On Thursday, January 11, 2018, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) held a live webinar to provide clarification on the Choice Ready Initiative. This Q & A is a compilation from that event.

Q: Will there be a minimum hour requirement for the work-based experience?

A: There is no minimum hour requirement for work-based learning experiences under the Essential Skills; however, there is a 75-hour requirement for work-place learning under the Workforce Ready pathway.

Q: For ESSA reporting, does NDDPI refer to elementary as K-8?

A: Yes, ESSA calculates school accountability using rules based on grades K-8 (elementary) and 9-12 (high school), respectively. An elementary or middle school will use K-8 rules, while a high school comprised of grades 9-12 will use the high school rule. When grade level exceptions occur, individual grades are moved to the appropriate school. For example, in a high school comprised of grades 7-12, grades 7-8 will be moved to the elementary school for making accountability determinations, since the indicators for grades 7 and 8 are aligned with the elementary rules.

Q: It was stated August 2019 will be the first time Choice Ready will be reported on. So students who graduate in the 2019-2020 school year will need to be "Choice Ready"?

A: High schools will need to show an increase in the number of students they graduate Choice Ready from June 2018 to June 2019. Choice Ready is a measurement of growth for our high schools. For example, if a high school graduates 100 students and 60 of those students graduated Choice Ready, the following year the high school will need to graduate more than 60 Choice Ready students to show growth. Schools will begin tracking and reporting on Choice Ready graduates in the 2017-2018 school year.

Q: What is a "gold or silver" on WorkKeys? Is that just getting a 5 in all categories?

A: 6 is platinum, 5 is gold, 4 is silver, 3 is bronze in all categories.

Q: Under the requirement to complete 3 CTE courses, is a .5 credit class the same as 1 credit class?

A: Yes, it doesn't matter if it is a semester class or a full year class.

Q: Does an expulsion/suspension during grades 9-12 affect only the Military Ready pathway?

A: Yes, the Military Ready pathway is the only one affected by expulsions/suspensions. Local school districts may want to create local policies that allow a student to erase the suspension/expulsion on their transcript to meet the military choice ready aspect if they do some sort of restitution (community service, reparations to victim, etc.) and stay trouble-free for the rest of high school.

- Q: In the past, 11th graders took the North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA). If districts/schools opted for the NDSA as their growth measure under ESSA, and now 10th graders take the assessment, what happens to the Workforce Ready requirement? Does it still work even though they are sophomores?**
- A:** We are not using the state assessment for growth, we are using the assessment for a pure academic indicator on a number of students who are proficient or advanced. So, if a student takes the NDSA as a sophomore and gets a 3, that student meets the necessary requirement as an indicator under Workforce Ready.
- Q: For Military Ready, is there a difference between an in-school suspension (ISS) and an out-of-school suspension (OSS)?**
- A:** A good guideline is whatever data schools report to the NDDPI within the suspension/expulsion report will be applicable in this case. ISS is not considered part of this report.
- Q: What is NDDPI doing about juniors in the 2017-2018 school year who will not have state assessment results if we only test sophomores this year?**
- A:** This is the blip year; schools will not be able to use that particular indicator to meet the Workforce or College Ready indicator using the state assessment for 2017-2018 11th graders.
- Q: For suspension, it is just suspension from school? What about suspension from activities for alcohol/tobacco violation?**
- A:** The Choice Ready initiative only pertains to suspension from school, not extracurricular activities. Again, only suspensions or expulsions reported to the NDDPI in the end-of-year suspension/expulsion report would be considered.
- Q: Do students who have a part-time job meet the Work Place Learning Experience requirement but not the Work Based Learning requirement?**
- A:** Students can use experience gained through a part-time job to meet the work-place learning element within the Workforce Ready pathway. The intent of the work-based learning element under the Essential Skills is to provide students with career exploration opportunities and experiences. If participation in these experiences leads to employment, that is fine. However, the focus should be on providing students with numerous career exploration opportunities.
- Q: If we are supposed to use the four-year rolling career plan from the NDDPI website, will we no longer be able to use the four-year planner from R U Ready?**
- A:** The template on our website is a guide/tool. The “R U Ready Planner” works for grade 9 planning, but does not have any template space for you to determine what students will need to take their freshman year of college or first year out of high school, so it would need to be augmented to include that information for the four-year rolling career planning required in grades 10, 11, and 12. The NDDPI and CTE are working collectively to provide additional guidance and tools to address this and other similar issues.
- Q: Is there a minimum credit requirement for the online learning course requirement option?**
- A:** No, any online course is acceptable.

Q: If a student earns a GED at 16, but does not fulfill the Choice Ready areas, will it count against the school district?

A: The high school would be given accountability points for students earning their GED, but that student would not be included in the Choice Ready accountability expectation. The student would be included in the graduation rate accountability section and considered a dropout in the graduating class cohort. A school will not get dinged in multiple areas for the same student for Choice Ready.

Q: Was there thought on having different minimum subsection scores on the ACT?

A: Yes, a lot of conversations occurred on this topic at the ESSA Planning Committee meetings. It was determined by the group of educational stakeholders on the ESSA committee to use the ACT scores required by NDUS within the Post-Secondary ready pathway.

Q: Can any job a student has qualify for the work-based learning experience in both the essential skills and workforce ready, or does it have to be school supervised/facilitated?

A: Student employment under the work-place learning within the Workforce Ready pathway does not have to be school supervised/facilitated. Schools will need to have a process to verify student employment.

Q: How will out-of-state transfers enrolled in their junior or senior year be handled?

A: It will depend on what type of information you can secure from the out-of-state school district. If there is not enough information, we will not include them in the district's Choice Ready algorithm. Only students enrolled for 120 days will be included in the Choice Ready data.

Q: What should schools be doing this year to prepare?

A: Show the recorded WebEx and have this conversation in your school. Take the Choice Ready information we have provided and come up with a plan for your school as to who is going to complete the report and what are the plans within your school. Share this information with parents and school boards, etc. Review the chart to identify any of the areas your school may be lacking or opportunities you may not be providing for your students; develop a plan on how the school will provide more opportunities for students moving forward. Stay connected with NDDPI to answer questions and to assist in supporting your work.

Q: I recall 31 is the lowest score to be eligible for the military. Students wanting to get into the Air Force would need a greater score, correct?

A: This is just an indicator, not the determiner. Each branch of the military has its own minimum requirements.

Q: What kind of collaboration was done with the five branches of the military?

A: Superintendent Baesler met with the commanding officers and representatives of all military branches throughout the state and western Minnesota. A national cohort has been developed through the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for those states using military ready, and CCSSO is involved in a national conversation with the military branches.

Q: Is the 31 ASVAB score a generalized national minimum?

A: Yes, it is a generalized national minimum as determined by the military entrance centers.

- Q: Can North Dakota students who have not met these Military Ready requirements go to another state and enlist?**
- A:** Again, each branch of the military has their own minimum requirements a student must meet.
- Q: Can pre-graduation enlistment for basic training be used to meet any of the indicators in the Workforce Ready pathway?**
- A:** Yes, it would be applicable to use basic training to meet the 75-hour requirement within the Workforce Ready pathway.
- Q: Is there a minimum number of Career Ready practices that need to be implemented?**
- A:** This issue is currently under discussion and a guide is being created, which will be available on the CTE website. There will be a minimum number and certain required career ready practices will be incorporated into that.
- Q: Clarification is still needed as to the extent Choice Ready data is used. If I understand correctly, this data is not a screening tool for colleges or military to use?**
- A:** It is not to be used as a tool for our students. This data is used to measure the level to which our high schools are meeting our students' needs in order for them to be Choice Ready. It is based on the expectations colleges have set within their organizations and what the military has set within their organizations. We are using these as a baseline of expectations for our students as they enter into their choice. The NDDPI will not be using them as screening tools, or tracking, but the colleges and military certainly will use these indicators as their screening tools.
- Q: How will demonstrating competency in 21st century skills be reported?**
- A:** There are multiple ways schools can demonstrate meeting 21st century skills. Schools that have a 21st century skills initiative in place would be able to demonstrate student competency in a 21st century skills. The NDDPI is working on getting additional resources on the Choice Ready website pertaining to the 21st century skills component.
- Q: What is a staff digest?**
- A:** A staff digest is simply a term used to reference the section on the dashboard pertaining to staffing.
- Q: Would you please provide a direct link to the ND Choice Ready page on the NDDPI website?**
- A:** <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/SchoolStaff/SSI/ESSA/Information/ChoiceReady/>
- Q: At any point will there be recognition for Choice Ready on transcripts?**
- A:** We can certainly discuss adding it to the transcripts in the future. Right now, NDDPI is working on a Seal of Biliteracy so if a student is proficient in two or more languages they will receive a Seal of Biliteracy on their transcript. We are also developing, with CTE, a Seal of Career Readiness using the Career Ready rubric as a possibility to include on a transcript.
- Q: What if a student meets the subsection score for English, Reading and Math but not for Science?**
- A:** They will not meet the necessary requirements for that indicator.
- Q: Why are we using June 1 to enter the data if schools are still in session?**
- A:** Based on feedback and thorough discussion, June 30 has been set as the firm deadline.

Q: As stated in the CREAM/CLEM clarifying document, the student can take English, Math, or both. Will a student have to take both the ELA and the reading component in order to pass English in addition to the Math course for CREAM/CLEM?

A: Yes, to meet the requirements a student must pass all 16 math units (modules) for CREAM math or all 6 English units (modules) for CREAM English, which contain both reading and writing components.

Q: We are providing the indicator of a level 3 for the NDSA; why are we not providing the indicator for the ACT score under the Workforce Ready?

A: It was part of the conversation and determined it was not necessarily useful for students who are primarily going to be entering the workforce.

Q: Does an ITV class count for online classes? If so, does that include the students who are in the sending site face-to-face setting?

A: No, an ITV class will not count for an online class. Taking an online course provides students with a unique set of circumstances and requirements including self-directed discipline.

Q: Will student activities outside of school be accepted as “extra-curricular” activities? For example, students who participant in dance outside of school through a dance studio versus being on a school dance team. Or students who take music lessons outside of the school, who take taekwondo/karate, art lessons through a community organization, etc.?

A: No, extra-curricular activities are not limited to just those through the North Dakota High School Activity Association. The examples provided in the guidance are not fully inclusive.

Q: What if a school applies for an Innovation Waiver, for example, and they do not continue to require English 4. How will that impact the ability of the students/school to measure this if core requirement expectations change?

A: The onus would be on the school to address this with their innovative waiver application. If a waiver with such a request is approved, then NDDPI would work with the school on the Choice Ready reporting.

Q: The Career Ready practices are closely related to 4 Cs. Is this redundant?

A: The intent within the Choice Ready initiative is to provide students and schools with many options. There are currently schools using the CRP developed by CTE. There are also schools currently working with vendors on the 4 Cs. The Choice Ready framework will allow all of these current practices to count for Choice Ready.

Q: Post-secondary indicators of 22 and 18 are Choice Ready; however, NDSU and UND only require 21 and 17. Will this be adjusted?

A: The ESSA Planning Committee chose these scores and an indicator for post-secondary based on the NDUS Academic Affairs Course Placement requirements. There may be lower score requirements for admissions, but the concern was if a student goes to a university and is required to take remedial courses for which they will not get credit, then we cannot say they are Choice Ready.

Q: Is the Workforce Ready pathway mainly intended for students who will not be attending college?

A: Ideally, all students would graduate Choice Ready in all three pathways. For accountability purposes, students must meet criteria in two out of the three pathways. The Workforce Ready pathway was not developed exclusively for students who were not planning to attend college. Rather, the Workforce Ready criteria was developed to ensure when students enter the workforce, they have the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to be successful. For example, many students begin their careers in the workforce while concurrently enrolling in post-secondary coursework part-time or full-time. The ability to do this would be aided by being Workforce Ready.

Contact Information

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