Understanding the Postsecondary Readiness Indicator for 2026 State Classifications

v.07.29.26

One of the biggest changes in the newest iteration of the AQuESTT Classification System is the addition of the Postsecondary Readiness indicator for high schools and districts. This indicator score is determined by two measurements: Postsecondary Readiness Rate and Postsecondary Readiness Improvement. Complete scoring rules for this indicator and all others will be provided in the 2026 AQuESTT Classification Business Rules at aquestt.com/resources.

How is Postsecondary Readiness defined?

- Definition: The percentage of students in the graduating cohort of a school/district meeting one or more of five menu items
- Menu Items:
    - Successfully complete two or more Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Cambridge International/Dual Enrollment courses;
    - Earn the Seal of Biliteracy;
    - Complete two or more intermediate or capstone courses in the same Career and Technical Education (CTE) career cluster program area (earn the Concentrator designation);
    - Successfully complete a work-based learning experience; or
    - Met/Exceeded the Advanced threshold in ELA, Math, and Science on the statewide ACT assessment.

How will you track student progress in reaching these goals?

- AP/IB/CI/DE, CTE Concentrator status, and Work-based learning opportunities will all be tracked by course codes submitted through ADVISER.
    - There are specific course codes for courses that include work-based learning (WBL).
    - All courses can be found within the Course Codes and Clearing Endorsements website: https://coursecodes.education.ne.gov/.
    - The WBL codes are either listed under the heading "Career Education Foundational and Specialty" or integrated into a CTE course and whose title includes "with WBL".
- The Seal of Biliteracy Application process will be used to determine if students earn the seal.
- Statewide assessment scores will be used to determine if students have met or exceeded the Advanced threshold for the ACT ELA, Math, and Science scores.

What students are considered for this indicator?

- Postsecondary Readiness uses the four-year cohort from a year in arrears, like Combined Graduation Rate. So, for the 2026 classification process, the four-year cohort graduating in 2025 is used.
- A school or district cohort must have at least 10 members for it to be used in the Postsecondary Readiness Indicator.
    - If the current 4-year graduation cohort doesn't have 10 members, the previous year's counts for the matching cohort year can be added. If both cohorts combined are still lacking enough members, the 2nd prior year can be added as well, but no more than that – e.g. for the 2025-26 classification, if the 2024-25 4-year cohort only has 8 members, the 2023-24 and 2022-23 4-year cohorts may be added to it.

How is the Postsecondary Readiness Rate determined?

- Definition: The percentage of students who met at least one of the menu items divided by the total number of students in the cohort.

$$\textbf{Postsecondary Readiness Rate} = \frac{\text{Students Meeting one or More of the Menu Items}}{\text{Students in the Cohort}}$$

How is the Postsecondary Readiness Improvement classification level determined?

- A school/district's Postsecondary Readiness Improvement classification level is based on the year-to-year improvement of Postsecondary Readiness rates and is measured using the Simple Improvement scoring methodology.
- **Step 1:** Is the current year's postsecondary readiness rate higher than the previous year's rate? If yes, move to step 2; if no, Improvement score is 1.
- **Step 2:** Does the current year's postsecondary readiness rate meet or exceed the improvement goal? If yes, improvement score is 3; if no, improvement score is 2.
  Calculating the Improvement Goal: Last Year's Rate + (Last Year's Rate x 0.05)

How is the Indicator Classification Level determined?

- The Postsecondary Readiness indicator Classification Level is determined by the higher classification level for Postsecondary Readiness Rate and Postsecondary Readiness Improvement.

Indicator	Classification Level
Postsecondary Readiness	**3**
• Postsecondary Readiness Rate	2
• Postsecondary Readiness Improvement	3

What weight does Postsecondary Readiness carry?

- At the district level, Postsecondary Readiness carries a weight of 12%.
- At the high school level, Postsecondary Readiness carries a weight of 15%.

Indicator	District	High School
Postsecondary Readiness	**9%**	**11%**

How are the Indicator Points calculated?

- Indicator points for Postsecondary Readiness, like all other indicators, are determined by multiplying the Indicator Classification level by the Indicator Weight.

  Indicator Points = Indicator Classification Level x Indicator Weight

- Indicator Scoring Example: Below is a district example showing the calculation of the Postsecondary Readiness Indicator Points.

Indicator	Score Range	Class. Level	Indicator Weight	Indicator Points
Postsecondary Readiness		**3**	**11%**	**0.33**
• Postsecondary Readiness Rate	84% to 91.99%	2		
• Postsecondary Readiness Improvement	≥ 5% improvement	3		