Recommended College and Career Readiness Measures

**Progress Toward Post-High School Credential**
Student demonstration of successful progress toward credentials of value beyond high school. At a minimum that means completion of a validated college- and career-ready course of study. It should also include whether students completed a rigorous pathway and earned postsecondary credit while in high school. Rather than focus solely on whether a student graduates, this is a critical measure of whether a student is graduating prepared for the next step. Research suggests completion of rigorous coursework—including career pathways and dual credit—is highly correlated with student success beyond high school.

**Co-Curricular Learning and Leadership Experiences**
Student completion of state-defined co-curricular experience(s) aligned to students’ academic and career plans. This would include an evaluation that the student met expectations and gained the professional skills necessary for success in college and careers. Learning and Leadership experiences include extended work-based learning, service learning or co-curricular activity, such as participation in state career technical student organization competitions.

**Assessment of Readiness**
Students scoring at the college- and career-ready level on assessment(s) that are validated by higher education and industry. In many states, the proficiency cut point on the high school assessment does not indicate college and career readiness, so an accurate examination of readiness for the next level is critical, including assessments that provide value to students’ paths into education, training and the workforce beyond high school. Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, industry recognized credentials, technical skills assessments and other performance-based demonstrations of students’ knowledge and skills should be incorporated to provide valuable insight into student progression toward college and career in their chosen pathway.

**Transitions Beyond High School**
Successful student transition to postsecondary education, training or the workforce within 12 months of graduation. Examining the quality of each of these transitions is critical to ensure that alignment between K-12, higher education and workforce exists and that students are placed into situations that promote their ability to realize long-term economic success. This means enrollment in higher education without the need for remediation, engagement in high-quality registered apprenticeship certificate programs, military enlistment, or employment in state-defined in-demand fields.