

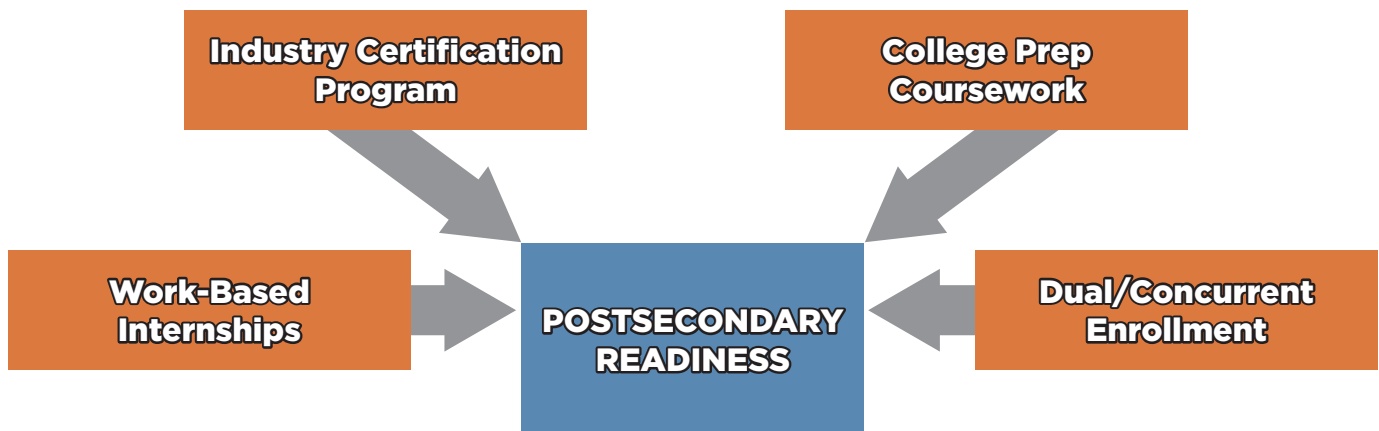
## ABOUT THE POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES INDICATOR

Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states are required to include an indicator of school quality or student success. Oklahoma has chosen Postsecondary Opportunities as one of two indicators to meet this requirement. This indicator encourages schools and students to participate in activities and programs that enhance preparation for life after high school. Points earned reward schools for helping their students gain early college and career exposure. Every student is counted in this indicator, which is worth 10 points in the overall high school report card grade.



## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

Points earned under the Postsecondary Opportunities indicator are based on the percentage of high school juniors and seniors completing at least one of the approved options to prepare for life after high school. Approved options include college preparatory coursework (including Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate programs), certain industry certification programs through the Department of Career and Technology Education, work-based internships and dual-concurrent enrollment in college coursework.



Offering multiple college- and career-readiness choices empowers districts to highlight local approaches to ensuring students are prepared for success after high school. This indicator also acknowledges that each student has unique individual goals for the future and should have access to a range of options supporting academic and career planning.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Life beyond high school requires different skills and talents than in the past. Today's students may work in future jobs and careers that do not yet exist. By 2025, three of four Oklahoma jobs will require education or training beyond high school. Postsecondary opportunities enable students to participate in coursework and experiences that enhance their likelihood for success after high school, whether they pursue a technical field, college or military service.

## HOW IS THE INDICATOR MEASURED?

Schools will receive credit for every student completing and passing at least one approved postsecondary opportunity. For students participating in multiple opportunities – for example, a student enrolled in an approved CareerTech course that leads to industry certification and an Advanced Placement course – one point will be earned. Schools with high percentages of students who participate in college- and career-readiness activities and programs will receive the greatest number of points.

*For additional information on understanding the Postsecondary Opportunities indicator, see e-learning module 7.*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What information is needed for schools to earn credit under this indicator?**

With the exception of coursework completed at a career and technology center, which is reported to OSDE by CareerTech, all other opportunities must be reported via the Postsecondary Opportunities Report in OSDE's portal, the Wave. For students to earn credit, they must have completed the course or internship with a minimum grade of D with all appropriate fields completed in Wave reporting. Incomplete records will not earn credit.

### **Which courses earn credit under the Postsecondary Opportunities indicator?**

Students may earn credit for participating in advanced coursework (AP/IB), concurrent/dual enrollment, internships or CareerTech coursework leading to industry certification. Specific course codes approved for credit can be found in the [Postsecondary Opportunities Guidance document](http://bit.ly/PostOpsGuide) (<http://bit.ly/PostOpsGuide>). Consult Oklahoma CareerTech for a list of approved CareerTech programs.

### **Why does this indicator measure participation instead of performance?**

The immediate goal of the indicator is to increase access to postsecondary opportunities. The long-term expectation is to transition to a performance-based measure. This transition will be gradual so that performance measures may be used and collected equitably.

### **Is there a minimum enrollment requirement for students to be included in this indicator?**

To ensure that all students included in the calculation have successfully completed a postsecondary opportunity, Full Academic Year (FAY) criteria will be used. In other words, students will only be counted in this indicator if they were continuously enrolled for the school year. A student enrolled at a school for only two months would not be able to successfully complete a postsecondary opportunity during that time. Similarly, students who transfer in and out of a school site may cumulatively have enough enrollment to comprise a full semester, but extended enrollment gaps would preclude their ability to complete an AP course or internship.