

Really Ready

All students deserve the chance to be *Really Ready* for college, work, and life.

Each student's path will look different, but in every case, the appropriate supports, scaffolds and learning experiences need to be present so each student can confidently reach their next phase of life.

Digital Curriculum can help students get *Really Ready* for college, work, and life.

Highly engaging online content and courses that have **embedded assessments** and **ample differentiation** can meet the needs of all students.

The power of digital curriculum can help create learning environments that build:



ACADEMIC EXPERTISE



CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS



PERSEVERANCE FOR POSTSECONDARY CAREERS

Graduation Rates are Up but College and Work Readiness is Down

84.1%

The public high school 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (ACGR) in the United States for the 2015-2016 school year.¹

Are Students Really Ready Once They Receive Their High School Diplomas?

A student graduates with a diploma in hand — but does that mean they are ready for the next phase of life? Not quite, according to the data. For the 2016 year, both SAT® and ACT® scores were down, suggesting many students are not college-ready once they graduate.

SAT SCORES

The class of 2016 had an average composite score of 1484, down from 1490 in 2015. The lowest score in nearly a decade.²

On the SAT's college- and career-readiness benchmark,

41.9%

of graduates demonstrated that they were on track to succeed in college.

ACT SCORES

The class of 2016 had an average composite score of 20.8, down from 2015.³

On the ACT's college-readiness benchmarks in all four subjects (reading, English, math and science)

26%

of graduates demonstrated that they were ready for college.

The Benefits of Students Being Really Ready

Increased Gross Domestic Product

If investments were made that raised math and science achievement scores, the U.S would experience \$72 billion more in GDP growth every year for the next 35 years.⁴

Access to higher level jobs

Students who gain career and technical skills, during high school are better prepared to access technical jobs once they graduate. Students who take just one additional CTE course above the average are two percentage points more likely to be hired after high school.⁵

Prepared for college courses during their first year

Research shows that in the 2014-15 academic year 96% of students, enrolled in 911 two- and four-year colleges, required remediation.⁶

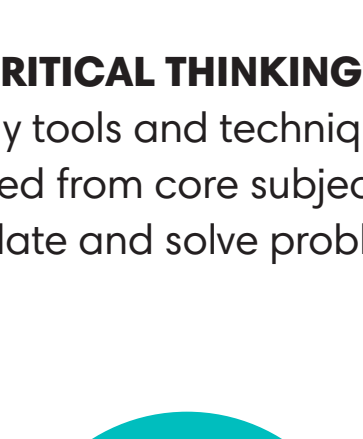
Increased likelihood of graduating college in 4 years

A student who is really ready for college does not require remediation. Research shows the dropout risk for four-year-degree-seeking-students who need remediation is 74% higher than non-remedial students.⁷

The Really Ready Skills Students Need for College and Career

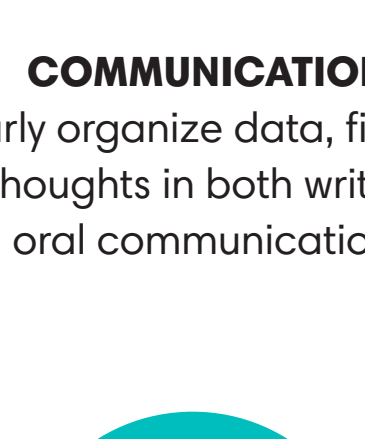
If we know that students are graduating high school, but are not completely prepared for their next phase of life, what can we do to get them *Really Ready*? What does a college- and career-ready student look really like?

5 Essential Really Ready Skills students should have before they graduate high school.⁸



CRITICAL THINKING⁹

Apply tools and techniques gleaned from core subjects to formulate and solve problems.



COMMUNICATION

Clearly organize data, findings, and thoughts in both written and oral communication.



GROWTH MINDSET¹⁰

Recognize that both basic and advanced abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work.



SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING

Monitor and direct self-learning; complete projects and tasks independently.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS¹¹

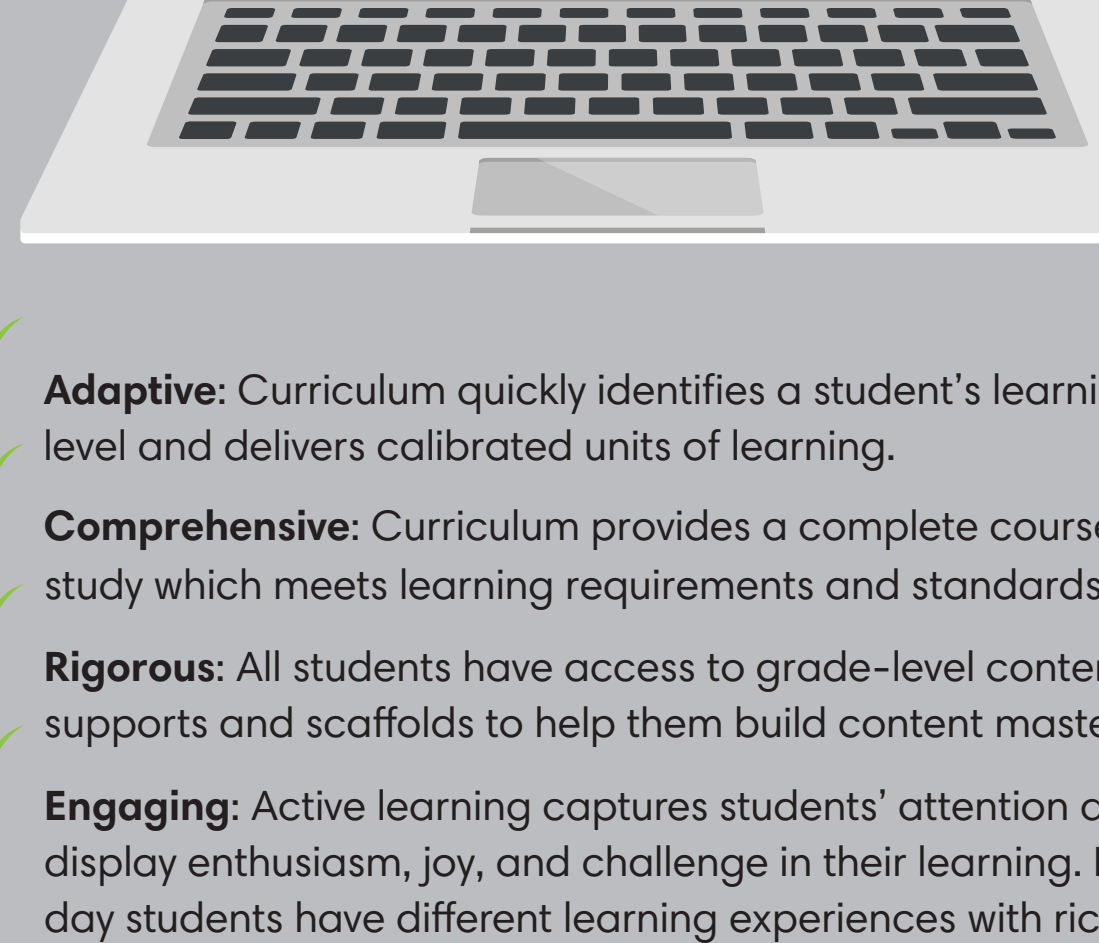
Understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Really Ready Skills Prepare Students for College and Career

How can we prepare students with these skills? What are the learning conditions that lead to students being really ready for their next phase of life? Effective digital curriculum has proven to be one highly valuable, and personalized, solution.

Effective Digital Curriculum is a Catalyst for Deeper Learning

With effective use of high-quality digital curriculum, students develop skills for critical thinking, problem solving and deeper learning, along with subject matter skills, leading them to be better prepared and really ready for college and career.



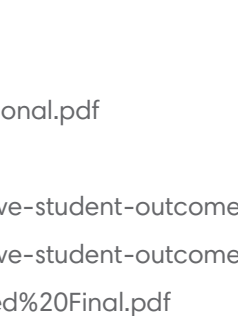
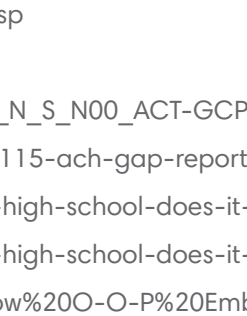
- ☒ **Adaptive:** Curriculum quickly identifies a student's learning level and delivers calibrated units of learning.
- ☒ **Comprehensive:** Curriculum provides a complete course of study which meets learning requirements and standards.
- ☒ **Rigorous:** All students have access to grade-level content with supports and scaffolds to help them build content mastery.
- ☒ **Engaging:** Active learning captures students' attention and they display enthusiasm, joy, and challenge in their learning. Each day students have different learning experiences with rich media and resources.
- ☒ **Personalized:** Learning tailored to meet each student's strengths and interests, while also supporting their needs.

Paving the Path

Engaging and rigorous digital content is key to ensuring that students are working on *Really Ready* skills.

All students need to have learning experiences that prepare them for college, work, and life environments.

Learn more at ApexLearning.com/Really-Ready



ACT® is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc. SAT® is a trademark registered by the College Board.

¹ https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/act/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2015-16.asp

² <https://reports.collegeboard.org/pdf/total-group-2016.pdf>

³ http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/P_99_999999_N_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_National.pdf

⁴ <http://cdn.equitablegrowth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/10153405/0115-ach-gap-report.pdf>

⁵ <https://edexcellence.net/publications/career-and-technical-education-in-high-school-does-it-improve-student-outcomes>

⁶ <https://edexcellence.net/publications/career-and-technical-education-in-high-school-does-it-improve-student-outcomes>

⁷ <https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/files/EdReformNow%20O-O-P%20Embargoed%20Final.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.gettingsmart.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Really-Ready-final.pdf>

⁹ Critical Thinking, Communication and Self-Direction are skills adapted from Deeper Learning for Every Student Every Day.

¹⁰ Growth Mindset is based on the work of Carol Dweck.

¹¹ Social and Emotional Skills definition is from CASEL.