

# NH Scholars Scoop

## College Admission Reps Call for Broader Definition of Readiness

What do SAT scores reveal about a student's ability to succeed in college? Not nearly enough, admissions experts say.

Recently admissions deans and higher-education researchers said colleges and universities must look beyond standardized tests and embrace a broader understanding of college readiness to promote access amid sweeping demographic changes.

How do definitions of readiness vary among different kinds of applicants? A student who has spent 20 years in the work force, versus a "genius in rural Arkansas" who took honors classes via satellite, versus a student who has been home schooled.

Admission reps agree that they "know it when they see it." But is there a way to measure college readiness more objectively?

Systematically evaluating students' nonacademic abilities is often tricky, however. Wayne J. Camara, vice president for research and analysis at the College Board, said more colleges must consider developing reliable measures of non-cognitive traits, such as leadership, that correlate with success in college.

## Outreach Programs Prove to be Successful Reinforcement Tool

We encourage both middle and high schools to offer ongoing reinforcement activities to ensure that students remain motivated to challenge themselves. Incentives may include special programs, business partner activities and classroom presentations. Visit the "Latest News" on the homepage of [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for a listing of potential programs.

## Business Partner Survey

**When business leaders speak, students listen.**

Participation from business and community leaders is invaluable when reinforcing the importance of academic rigor and college & career preparedness.

Business partner feedback to the 8 multiple-choice questions on the survey link below is appreciated. It will take less than three (3) minutes. Thanks to those who have completed it already.

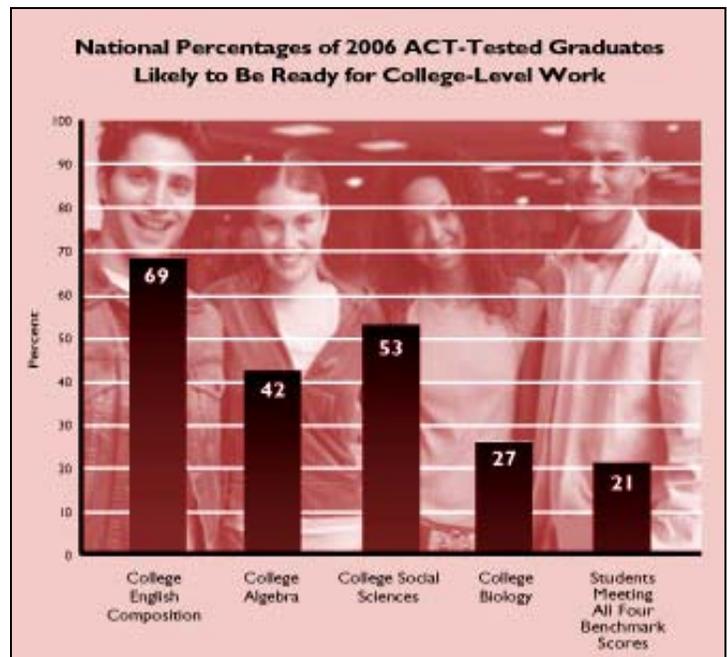
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A narrow definition of college readiness, measured by standardized-test scores, still remains because of a "detachment" between curricula at high schools and colleges.

For instance, while colleges may value technical reading skills, many high schools may not emphasize the mechanical skills that would prepare students to interpret information used in college courses. "More Beowulf and English literature is not going to get you there," said Michael Kirst, Stanford University professor.

We must better align K-12 with Higher Ed to ensure successful student transitions.

*Article courtesy of Eric Hoover, The Chronicle of Higher Education*



## Save the Date ~ November 18<sup>th</sup>

On **Tuesday, November 18, 2008** the New Hampshire Scholars Initiative will host a **Business/School Partnership Breakfast** event at the Courtyard Marriott in Concord. Formal invitations to schools, businesses and state agencies will follow.

Our mission is to convene school districts with business and community leaders. Over fifty active business volunteers are invited as well as many other community leaders. Schools are encouraged to use this opportunity as a venue to strengthen their school/business partnerships.



## State Scholars Initiative

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College Ready, Work Ready, Ready for Life.



Visit [www.NHscholars.org](http://www.NHscholars.org) for more information. Click on the "Resources" tab for archived newsletters and much more!

New Hampshire Scholars is part of the State Scholars Initiative, a national program that partners with local school districts and uses business leaders to motivate students, beginning in Grade 8, to complete a rigorous course of study in high school—one that will give them a boost in college and careers. New Hampshire Scholars encourages and motivates **ALL** high school students to complete a rigorous course of study that prepares them for college and careers.

A MEMBER OF THE STATE SCHOLARS INITIATIVE NATIONAL NETWORK



This is a Federal grant-funded program developed and administered through a partnership between the New Hampshire College and University Council, Campus Compact for New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Forum on the Future, the New Hampshire Department of Education and the National State Scholars Initiative.

### Did You Know?

This past year New Hampshire students and parents submitted 28,750 FAFSA forms (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Only 179 filed paper FAFSAs, leaving 28,571 completed online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**Tips for students:** (1) File soon after January 1<sup>st</sup> of your senior year. (2) Online is quicker and easier (3) Do not go to fafsa.com! It's a scam. (4) This is your application for all state, federal and college financial aid.

# Math Skills Prevalent in So Many Career Fields

Following up on the work of the American Diploma Project, Achieve has produced a series of "Mathematics at Work" brochures to examine how higher-level mathematics is used in today's workplaces.

The brochures present case studies drawn from leading industries nationwide to illustrate the advanced mathematics knowledge and skills embedded in jobs across the country.

The series underscores the value of a rigorous high school curriculum in

mathematics. All high school graduates, regardless of whether they enroll in college, join the workforce or enter the military, benefit from acquiring a comprehensive knowledge base and skill set in mathematics.

The brochures reinforce the need for at least three (3) years of math including algebra, geometry and algebra II as is required to become a New Hampshire Scholar. Many advocates believe four (4) years of math is necessary.

[Tell us what you think the standard in NH should be.](#)

You may download the PDFs by clicking on the link below. Printed copies of the brochures are available free of charge. Please visit Achieve to view the brochures and request copies. [www.achieve.org/MathatWork](http://www.achieve.org/MathatWork)

