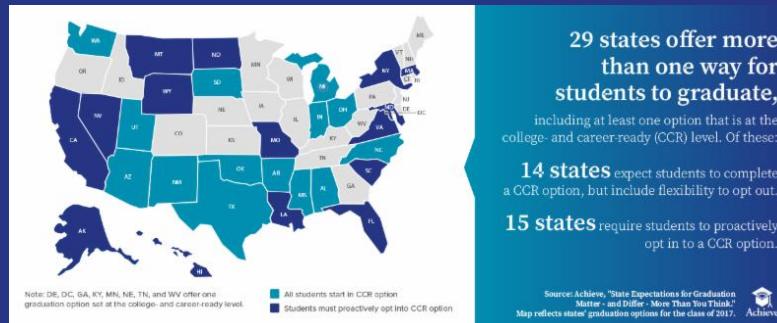# GRADUATING READY: Explore Every State's High School Graduation Requirements & Options

Don't miss Achieve's new Graduating Ready website, which offers a data explorer detailing every state's high school graduation requirements and options as well as deeper dives into key graduation-related issues. In a time when states are working to provide students with more flexibility - which is a good thing - it's more important than ever to have transparency about where different graduation options lead. What does your state require?

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New Brief: State Graduation Requirements Matter - and Differ - More Than You Think

Achieve recently released a new brief - *Graduation Requirements Matter - and Differ - More Than You Think* - examining the equity implications of the

way that states structure high school graduation choices for students. In states that offer more than one way for students to graduate, including at least one option at the college- and career-ready (CCR) level, it makes a big difference whether all students automatically start out on the CCR pathway (with the option to opt into a less rigorous option if needed) or whether the burden is on students to proactively opt into the CCR pathway. In states where the CCR option is the default for all students, an average of 88 percent of students ultimately complete the CCR option - compared with an average of just 47 percent when students have to opt into the CCR option. CCR default states also have much higher CCR completion rates for students of color and low-income students, as well as smaller gaps between students of color and white students. Read the full brief for more.

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From Data Quality Campaign: 3 Ways States Are Committing to Using Data to Meet Their Education Goals for Students Under ESSA

After digging into every state's ESSA plan, Data Quality Campaign conducted analysis of three major ways that states are deploying data to meet their education goals. Read more to see how states are supporting districts and schools to use data, using data at the agency level to monitor and foster progress, and working to increase transparency.

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#AlwaysLearning with The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

To celebrate back to school, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is [sharing stories](#) about what's working in education. Check out a series of videos, including a look at how to create opportunity for all and a conversation with 2018 Teacher of the Year Mandy Manning, and join in the conversation on social media using the hashtag #AlwaysLearning.

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From Learning Heroes: Back-to-School Readiness Check

Learning Heroes has released a quick and helpful [readiness check](#) for parents to get a sense of their child's readiness for the next school year. After kids answer 3-5 questions as a reading and math review from last year, parents receive free, fun activities to help their children at home.

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DID YOU KNOW?

29 states

offer students more than one way to graduate from high school, including at least one option at the college- and career-ready level. Explore Achieve's new [Graduating Ready website](#) to see what your state offers.

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*All students should graduate from high school
ready for college, careers, and citizenship.*