

Chapter 1

Overview

Hello again, and welcome to Chapter One. During these first four lessons, we're going to set the stage by talking about what college- and career-ready knowledge, behavior, and skills look like in different contexts.

The four lessons are:

1. What Does It Mean to be College and Career Ready?
2. Why is College and Career Readiness Important in Texas?
3. Preparing Students to Work in a Global Economy
4. Characteristics of a 21st Century Learner

This course uses a specific model to help us talk and think concretely about college and career readiness. The model was developed by Dr. David Conley, a leading expert in the field of educational policy. When you hear me talk about “the Four Keys” throughout the course, I'll be referring to that model. Don't worry; you'll have a lot of practice learning and using the Four Keys. By the end of Lesson One, and definitely by the end of the course, you'll be a pro.

Chapter One is also an opportunity for us to look specifically at college and career readiness in Texas. Texas is a national leader in legislation and policies designed to promote college and career readiness, but our state still struggles to see the results we want for our students. Lesson Two explores why we need statewide commitment at every level of education — K-12 and post-secondary — to make sure our students are getting the preparation they need.

Lessons Three and Four take a broad look at the knowledge and skills students need to succeed after high school and how they are different than the knowledge and skills required in previous generations. Students of the current and upcoming generations also bring different attitudes and aptitudes to their educations, and we'll explore those topics as well.

I think you're ready to dive in! See you in Lesson One.