"CAREER READINESS"

"Career Readiness" is not totally different from the skills, attitudes, and understandings that define college readiness. But ensuring that all students graduate both college ***AND*** career ready requires that students acquire a broad range of abilities, of which only some are directly taught or assessed.

Career readiness in today's schools demands that:

- Core academic instruction "stretches" students to apply their skills and knowledge to solve rigorous and meaningful problems rather than simply recalling basic knowledge and facts.
- Students acquire career-specific competencies that enhance their opportunities to pursue any chosen career.
- Students have opportunities to demonstrate and improve the behaviors and attitudes essential to career and real-world readiness.

WHY USE PERCEPTION DATA?

"Doing Well" in school has been traditionally defined only as getting good grades and achieving high test scores. Increasingly, however, prospective employers are taking a more critical look at skill sets that high school graduates possess that go beyond the traditional academic markers of achievement. The **WE ARE READY™** Surveys for Students and Staff are designed to measure and help schools understand how the culture and climate of the school impacts career readiness.

- **The WE ARE READY™ Student Survey helps students assess their own level of career readiness and how they feel school is preparing them for life after graduation.**

- **The WE ARE READY™ Staff Survey asks teachers to reflect on how the school is helping students to become career ready.**

Both surveys are structured to address similar concepts, but each is written specifically for the respondent either student or teacher. Comparing responses provides a way to identify "perception gaps" and, thereby, to assess the impact of the school is having on a specific set of critical "career readiness indicators." That data can be an effective tool for initiating innovative, meaningful transformation and improvement.

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

WE ARE READY™ Surveys are easy-to-use tools that ask students and staff to share their perceptions anonymously about how effectively they feel the culture of the school will create career-ready high school graduates. Taken together, the results provide a starting point for assessing the impact of the school's current programming on career readiness and stimulating meaningful reflection and dialogue that address key questions:

- **Does the culture of the school promote and reinforce identifiable indicators of career readiness?**
- **Do school programs, practices, and processes help students to become career ready?**

WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

The five indicators of career readiness are:

- ***COLLABORATION***
- ***PROBLEM-SOLVING***
- ***SELF-ADVOCACY***
- ***SELF-REFLECTION***
- ***COMMUNICATION***

IDENTIFY SIMILARITIES OR DISCREPANCIES IN STAFF AND STUDENT PERCEPTIONS

Staff: Students understand the work and training that is required for the careers they want:	**48%** AGREE
Students: I understand the work and training required for the career I want:	**69%** AGREE
Staff: I teach students strategies for solving difficult problems:	**93%** AGREE
Students: I am taught strategies in class for solving difficult problems:	**71%** AGREE
Staff: Students are interested in careers that are relative to their aptitudes:	**79%** AGREE
Students: I understand how my personal skills and talents align to my career interests:	**81%** AGREE

Contact/Ordering Information

District Name: _____

School Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Position: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Survey Requested:

- ○ WE Are Ready Student Survey
  - ○ Paper ○ Online
  - Number of students enrolled in school: _____
- ○ WE Are Ready Staff Survey
  - ○ Paper ○ Online
  - Number of students enrolled in school: _____

Please Indicate Any Additional Requests or Special Needs:

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Fax To: 518.723.2140

SPN Innovating for College and Career Learning
spnetwork.org

For more information contact the Successful Practices Network
info@spnet.us | 518.723.2063

WE Are Ready Surveys

"When students see the relevance in what they learn, school becomes an exciting place to be and they engage in the process of preparing for life after graduation."