States’ Use of Assessments

A national scan of common instruments used by higher education systems

In a national scan of state- and higher education systems policy on developmental education, Education Commission of the States (ECS) identified a variety of assessment instruments used to evaluate students’ college readiness. The ECS report shows that scores from the ACT and SAT exams are used most often—in 23 and 22 states, respectively. Following use of scores from these exams, states most often use those from Accuplacer (12 states) and ‘Other’ assessments, such as state-based diagnostic placement measures (11 states). This Points of Interest illuminates the types of assessment used most often for placement into courses as students enter college.

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