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Thank you for your request to our REL Reference Desk regarding evidence-based information about courses termed “reading intensive” as an indicator for predicting success for entering college students. Ask A REL is a collaborative reference desk service provided by the ten regional educational laboratories (REL) that, by design, functions much in the same way as a technical reference library. It provides references, referrals, and brief responses in the form of citations on research based education questions.

The information below represents the most rigorous research available. Researchers consider the type of methodology and give priority to research reports that employ well described and thorough methods. The resources were also selected based on the date of the publication with a preference for research from the last ten years. Additional criteria for inclusion include the source and funder of the resource.

**Question:** *I have found studies linking high school math performance as an indicator for predicting success for college freshmen. Are there similar studies linking courses termed “reading intensive” as an indicator for predicting success for entering college students?*

### **Search Process**

**Key words and search strings used in the search:** The following terms were used in different combinations: *reading intensive, high school, exit exams, college, college readiness, predictor of success*. Findings were limited to those published since 2000.

**Search databases and websites:** ERIC (<http://www.eric.ed.gov/>), Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com/>), EBSCO Host, Academic Search Complete (<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/academic-search-complete>), H. H. Wilson (<http://www.ebscohost.com/wilson>), and Proquest Education ([http://il.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/pq\\_ed\\_journals.shtml](http://il.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/pq_ed_journals.shtml))

### **Sample Citations Retrieved:**

Bishop, J. H., & Mane, F. (2001). *The impacts of minimum competency exam graduation requirements on high school graduation, college attendance and early labor market success*. *Labour Economics*, 8, 203-222. Retrieved from <http://www.ed-excel.com/verlabou.PDF>

Bishop, J., Mane, F., & Bishop, M. (2001). How external exit exams spur achievement. *Educational Leadership*, 59(1), 58-63.

Collins, E. (2008). Success in college: From C's in high school to A's in college (review). *Journal of College Student Development* 49(1), 77-79. doi: 10.1353/csd.2008.0007

Conley, D. T. (2010). *College and career ready: Helping all students succeed beyond high school*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

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- Droogsma Musoba, G. (2011). Accountability policies and readiness for college for diverse students. *Educational Policy*, 25(3), 451-487. doi: 10.1177/0895904810361721
- Educational Policy Improvement Center. (2009). *Creating college readiness: Profiles of 38 schools that know how*. Eugene, OR: Author. Retrieved from <https://www.epiconline.org/files/pdf/Profiles.pdf>
- Head-Dylla, C. (2012). Maybe I can learn to read in college. *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*, 15(2), 56-82. doi:10.1177/1555458912448434
- Holme, J., Richards, M., Jimerson, J., & Cohen, R. (2010). Assessing the effects of high school exit examinations. *Review of Educational Research*, 80(4), 476-526. doi: 10.3102/0034654310383147
- Jacob, B. (2001). Getting tough? The impact of high school graduation exams. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 23(2), 99-121.
- Jolliffe, D., & Harl, A. (2008). Studying the "reading transition" from high school to college: What are our students reading and why?. *College English*, 70(6), 599-617.
- Napoli, A., & Raymond, L. (2004). How reliable are our assessment data?: A comparison of the reliability of data produced in graded and un-graded conditions. *Research in Higher Education*, 45(8), 921-929.

### **Referrals**

**Organizations:** Center for Educational Policy Research: <http://cepr.uoregon.edu/publications>;  
College Readiness Project: <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/e-assesscollegereadiness.aspx>;  
Educational Policy Improvement Center: <http://www.epiconline.org/>

### ***Institute of Education Sciences Resources (IES):***

Publication search engine available at: <http://ies.ed.gov/pubsearch/>

**Other Federally Funded Resources:** National Library of Education (<http://www2.ed.gov/NLE/index.html>); National Center for Education Statistics (<http://nces.ed.gov/>); The Center on Innovation and Improvement (<http://www.centerii.org/>); The National High School Center (<http://www.betterhighschools.org/>)

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