

NLGA – For Consideration:

NLGA Consensus Resolution in Support of Early Assessments to Prepare Students for Postsecondary Success

WHEREAS, a 2025 national Gallup survey found that fewer than three in ten high school students felt very prepared to pursue the postsecondary pathways that interested them,¹ and

WHEREAS, valid and reliable assessments administered as early as ninth grade can provide students, families, and educators with actionable information about students' academic progress, workplace skills, interests, and strengths, and

WHEREAS, early assessment results can guide instruction, academic support, course selection, career exploration, dual enrollment, and work-based learning opportunities, and

WHEREAS, continued assessment throughout high school can measure growth, identify remaining readiness gaps, and help students prepare for college admission, scholarships, career training, nationally recognized credentials, military service, or the workforce, and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Education Statistics recognizes that college- and career-readiness data can support individualized learning, inform educational decisions, measure progress, and expand students' opportunities,² and

WHEREAS, forty-three (43) states include at least one career-focused indicator in their state or federal accountability systems, demonstrating the growing importance of measuring career readiness alongside academic readiness.³

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) recognizes college readiness and career readiness as complementary goals and affirms the importance of providing students and educators with actionable information early enough in high school to address readiness gaps and expand postsecondary opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state leaders can support access to valid and reliable college- and career-readiness assessments as early as ninth grade, with continued measurement throughout high school to evaluate student growth and readiness, as tools to support educational progress and expand students' opportunities.

ADOPTED, this day, the ___ of December, 2026.

Co-Sponsors: *TBD following approval.*

Proposed for the docket by: ACT, NLGA Partner

¹ Gallup, Jobs for the Future, and Walton Family Foundation, *Gen Z, Parents Lack Knowledge of Post-High School Options*, June 9, 2025.

² National Center for Education Statistics, *Forum Guide to College and Career Readiness Data*, November 2025.

³ Advance CTE, *Making Career Readiness Count: A 2025 Update*, June 2025.