

3 Readiness Gaps to Address Today and How Technology Can Help

“Readiness” means students having the knowledge, skills, and support to succeed in college, career, and life. Growing gaps in academic success, socio-emotional resilience, and career preparation put students—and institutions—at risk. Explore the stakes of these challenges and discover how technology can help bridge the gaps and support student success.

Emerging Readiness Gaps in High School Students

What’s at Stake for Higher Education



Academic Readiness

Ensure students succeed in their coursework.

Declines in reading and math proficiency

Students are arriving at college without essential skills, struggling with college-level coursework due to gaps in basic reading, writing, and math.

42%

of ACT-tested 2022 HS grads met none of the college-readiness subject benchmarks in English, Reading, Science, and Math¹

Rising dropout rates and remediation needs

Students will struggle with basic college skills, placing strain on institutions, lowering retention rates, and delaying academic progress and career goals.

39%

of college students in the United States drop out before completing their degree, with many citing academic challenges as a primary factor²



Socio-Emotional Readiness

Support students’ mental health and sense of belonging on campus.

Delayed development of vital social and independence skills

During the pandemic, students missed key opportunities to build social and emotional skills, making it harder to handle stress and new environments.

48%

of high school students report that stress and anxiety overshadow their college search and planning³

Higher attrition rates and challenges in fostering a sense of belonging

Students who feel isolated and unengaged often face worsening mental health and academic struggles. They are at risk of dropping out when institutions cannot meet the demand for care.

81%

of students indicated that their mental health negatively impacted their academic performance in the past four weeks⁴



Career Readiness

Help students transition to the workforce and build fulfilling careers.

Lack of career-specific skills and real-world readiness

Lack of practical, job-specific skills leaves students unprepared for workforce demands, causing confusion, lower productivity, and missed career opportunities.

75%

of high school students now view on-the-job learning experiences, such as internships and apprenticeships, as essential to their postsecondary education—a 14% increase since 2022⁵

Increased pressure on social mobility and institutional reputation

Limited career readiness impacts students’ opportunities for advancement, their social mobility, and institutions’ ability to sustain outcomes and attract future students.

39%

of new college graduates said their education did not prepare them for transitioning into the workforce⁶

¹⁻⁶ To view the sources visit eab.com/StudentReadinessGaps

The right technology delivers scalable, impactful solutions to close readiness gaps and empower student success.

Navigate360 makes it easy for students to access the resources they need right when they need them, demonstrating your commitment to their success and helping them thrive academically, emotionally, and professionally. Use the chart below to explore Navigate360’s readiness tools.

Academic Readiness

Targeted Academic Support

Helps students receive personalized assistance to overcome specific learning gaps, ensuring they’re prepared for coursework

Peer Study Network

Encourages collaborative learning, enhancing comprehension and engagement in academic material

Real-Time Alerts for Students

Provides timely reminders for assignments and exams, helping students stay on track academically

Automated Reminders and Resources

Keeps students informed of available resources, ensuring they know where to find help when struggling

Socio-Emotional Readiness

Coordinated Stepped Care

Offers tiered support options, from self-service to counseling, ensuring students receive the right level of help

Self-Service Wellness Tools

Empowers students to manage stress and build resilience independently, reducing reliance on counseling services

Engagement Tracking and Support

Identifies students at risk of isolation or disengagement, allowing for early intervention to foster a sense of belonging

Community and Belonging Initiatives

Provides structured opportunities for social interaction, helping students build essential social skills

Career Readiness

Virtual Skill-Building Experiences

Prepares students for the workforce by building in-demand skills through accessible online platforms

Personalized Career Pathways

Guides students in exploring career options that align with their strengths and interests, fostering confidence in their career choices

Access to Career Counseling and Networking

Connects students with advisors and industry professionals, expanding their job search resources

Tracking Career Progress and Skill Gaps

Enables students to monitor their readiness for specific career fields and address skill gaps proactively



We have created a checklist to help you assess your current ability to close key readiness gaps. [Take the student readiness self-audit today at eab.com/readiness-audit](http://eab.com/readiness-audit)