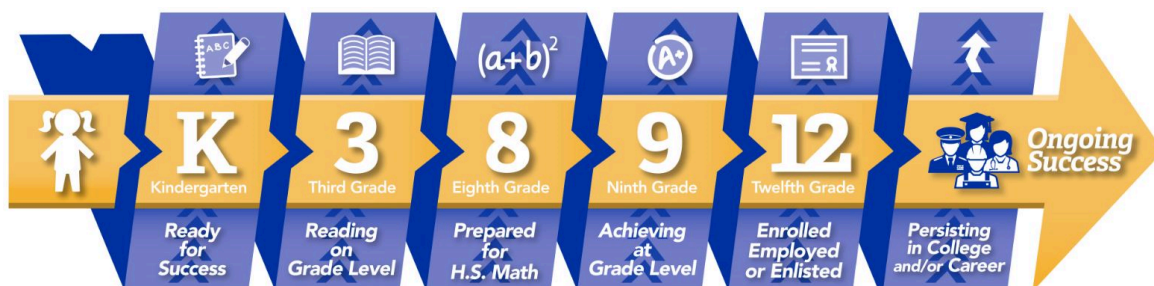




## Transition Points: What are they and why do they matter?

**Summit Education Initiative (SEI)** is a dynamic organization committed to ensuring every Summit County student is prepared for success on their chosen path. We work to increase personal and regional prosperity through educational attainment by fostering collaborative partnerships that strengthen the education pipeline. At SEI, we measure progress through key Leading Indicators of Success, guiding students through crucial transition points such as early childhood, third-grade reading, high school graduation, and college and career readiness.

Through our networks, we harness data to inspire action and drive meaningful change. By sharing insights and progress, we empower our stakeholders—schools, community organizations, and businesses—to collaborate and take targeted actions at these pivotal moments. This data-driven approach allows us to ensure that every student has the support they need at each critical stage in their educational journey.



There is widespread, national recognition of these milestones/transition points. Foundations and organizations, including but not limited to; Strive Together, The Gates Foundation, and Education-to-Workforce show alignment across the measurement and importance of the metrics.

### **Kindergarten Readiness**

*\*\*Measure: the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, Language and Literacy domain*

- High-quality, early learning experiences have long-term benefits for academic outcomes of students <sup>1</sup>
- The first 8 years of a child's life is important for brain development, future learning, health, and long-term life success <sup>1</sup>
- Systemic, educational disparities emerge early on which makes these early childhood moments a key point in interrupting the disparate systems <sup>1</sup>
- The scores on the KRA are positively and significantly associated with the 3rd grade ELA performance <sup>2</sup>
- Students who score as “demonstrating readiness” on the KRA are approximately 3x more likely to meet the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee at the start of 3rd grade when compared to students who score as “emerging readiness” <sup>2</sup>
- Limited kindergarten readiness is a strong predictor of future risk of reading difficulty <sup>2</sup>

### **Third Grade Reading**

*\*\*Measure: the 3rd grade English Language Arts test*

- Reading proficiency in 3rd grade is foundational for other learning experiences and opportunities <sup>3</sup>
- Proficient 3rd grade readers are more successful in high school and more likely to enroll in postsecondary school <sup>3</sup>
- Students who do not read proficiently in third grade are 4x more likely to exit high school without a diploma <sup>3</sup>
- Third grade reading proficiency is associated with better social skills and behavioral outcomes <sup>3</sup>
- The gap between struggling students and fluent readers does not lessen over time, it often increases significantly as students progress through their academic journeys <sup>4</sup>
- Students who are unable to read at grade level in 3rd grade start having difficulty comprehending learning materials that are core to the educational process in subsequent grades <sup>5</sup>
- 3rd grade reading is a significant predictor of 8th grade reading level <sup>5</sup>
- Reading proficiently by the end of grade 3 is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success <sup>6</sup>

### **Eighth Grade Math**

*\*\*Measure: the 8th grade math, algebra, or geometry test*

- Middle grade math proficiency increases the likelihood of high school graduation and positive later life outcomes <sup>7</sup>
- Strong mathematics foundations can increase enrollment in advanced math courses and encourage pathways to STEM and STEM-related fields <sup>7</sup>
- Eighth grade math achievement is linked to increased income and educational attainment as well as decreased teen motherhood, incarceration, and arrest rates <sup>7</sup>
- Eighth grade math achievement is considered to be the “gatekeeper” to advanced math and science courses and those advanced STEM courses predict college readiness, completion, and career success <sup>8</sup>

### **Ninth Grade Success**

*\*\*Measure: earning 6.5 credits with at least a B average (3.0)*

- Ninth graders who earn GPAs of 3.0 and above experience positive outcomes through the rest of high school and beyond <sup>9</sup>
- Ninth grade success is predictive of on-time high school graduation, college enrollment, and returning to college for their second year <sup>9</sup>
- Evidence shows that students’ grades at this transition point may be better indicators of future academic milestones than their test scores <sup>9</sup>
- Ninth grade GPA predicts grade 11 GPA <sup>10</sup>
- Ninth grade on-track indicators can assist in dropout prevention efforts <sup>10</sup>
- The first year of high school is a critical time for students to form perceptions of themselves as learners, which impacts future learning outcomes <sup>11</sup>

### **College and Career Readiness**

*\*\*Measure: graduating with a 21 or higher on the ACT*

- Students with a 21 or higher on the ACT graduate college at rates of 50-83%, as opposed to students scoring lower who graduate at rates of 17-42% <sup>12</sup>
- Scores on the ACT have a statistically significant, positive predictive value of college grades <sup>12</sup>
- A contributor to this positive correlation could be the general presence of college readiness (i.e., preparing for the ACT, preparing for college, etc.) <sup>13</sup>

### **High School Graduation**

*\*\*Measure: the completion of high school in 4 years*

- High school graduation in 4 years is associated with improved academic, health, and social outcomes in life <sup>14</sup>
- Individuals who graduate high school have higher wages and increased employment rates, when compared to non-graduates and those who earned a GED <sup>14</sup>
- As of 2022, the wage gap between individuals with high school completion and less than high school completion was over \$6,000 annually <sup>15</sup>

## Postsecondary Attainment

### 1. Postsecondary Enrollment

*\*\*Measure: the enrollment in an accredited post secondary program the fall after high school graduation*

- Enrollment is necessary for postsecondary completion<sup>16</sup>
- Postsecondary enrollment is a strong predictor of economic and social advancement<sup>16</sup>
- Students who enroll in postsecondary education (with the goal of pursuing a career) have better achievement outcomes than those who enroll solely for academic reasons<sup>17</sup>
- When students declare a major during their freshman year, they are more likely to obtain a bachelor's or associate degree<sup>17</sup>

### 2. Postsecondary Completion

*\*\*Measure: National Student Clearinghouse data*

- Postsecondary completion is a strong predictor of economic and social advancement<sup>18</sup>
- As of 2022, the wage gap between individuals with a Bachelor's degree and those with high school completion was nearly \$25,000 annually<sup>15</sup>
- Society, at large, benefits from a more educated population through: lower instances of child abuse, lower rates of crime, and fewer teen pregnancies<sup>18</sup>

### 3. Employment

*\*\*Measure: the percentage of people aged 16-64 employed in the labor force*

- Employment is directly proportional economic success<sup>19</sup>
- Beyond economic successes, employment is directly related to other mobility factors and social determinants like physical health, mental health, and social well-being<sup>19</sup>
- Employment is the final step in the cradle-to-career continuum which facilitates upward economic mobility<sup>19</sup>
- Education and employment remain inextricably linked with employment rate gaps at 30% between individuals with less than high school completion and individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher<sup>20</sup>

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