Preface

The Stanford Institute for Higher Education Research's Bridge Project is exploring ways in which to strengthen the alignment between higher education requirements and high-school curriculum frameworks, standards, and assessments. The Bridge Project is examining high school exit and college entrance policies in six states, and conducting interviews and surveys with students, parents, and educators and researchers from various higher education institutions, state agencies, school districts, and schools.

The Bridge Project provided funds to RAND for the purpose of examining alignment among assessments administered to secondary and incoming first-year college students. The present study also examines the implications of discrepancies among assessments, focusing on the kinds of signals students may receive.

The report presents findings for five case study sites: California, Georgia, Oregon, Maryland, and Texas. The results should be of interest to educational policymakers who are interested in student transitions from secondary to postsecondary education.