READI Usage Survey Results 2009

Survey of READI administrators about their usage of Readiness for Education At a Distance Indicator

May, 2009

eLearningToolBox.com

Study Participation

- 51 READI administrators responded to the survey out of a possible 254 school accounts (20% response rate).

- Data was submitted during the months of March and April, 2009. The answers are based on patterns of usage of READI over the previous 12 months.

- A list of participating institutions is at the end of this document.

Executive Overview

- READI is used by a variety of reporting institutions ranging in size from 100 online students to over 25,000 online students.

- The single most common way that schools provide access to READI is through an orientation course. The second most common way is making READI available on the school's website. A variety of good practices of encouraging student use of READI are included in the report below.

Executive Overview

- Most schools provide READI as an option to students but about 30% of schools do require that students take READI.

- Most schools make READI available to all students, but about 30% make it available only to distance education students.

- About 40% of schools go over the READI scores one-to-one with students. A variety of good practices of assisting students in interpreting their READI scores are included in the report below.

Executive Overview:
Where Do You Use READI?
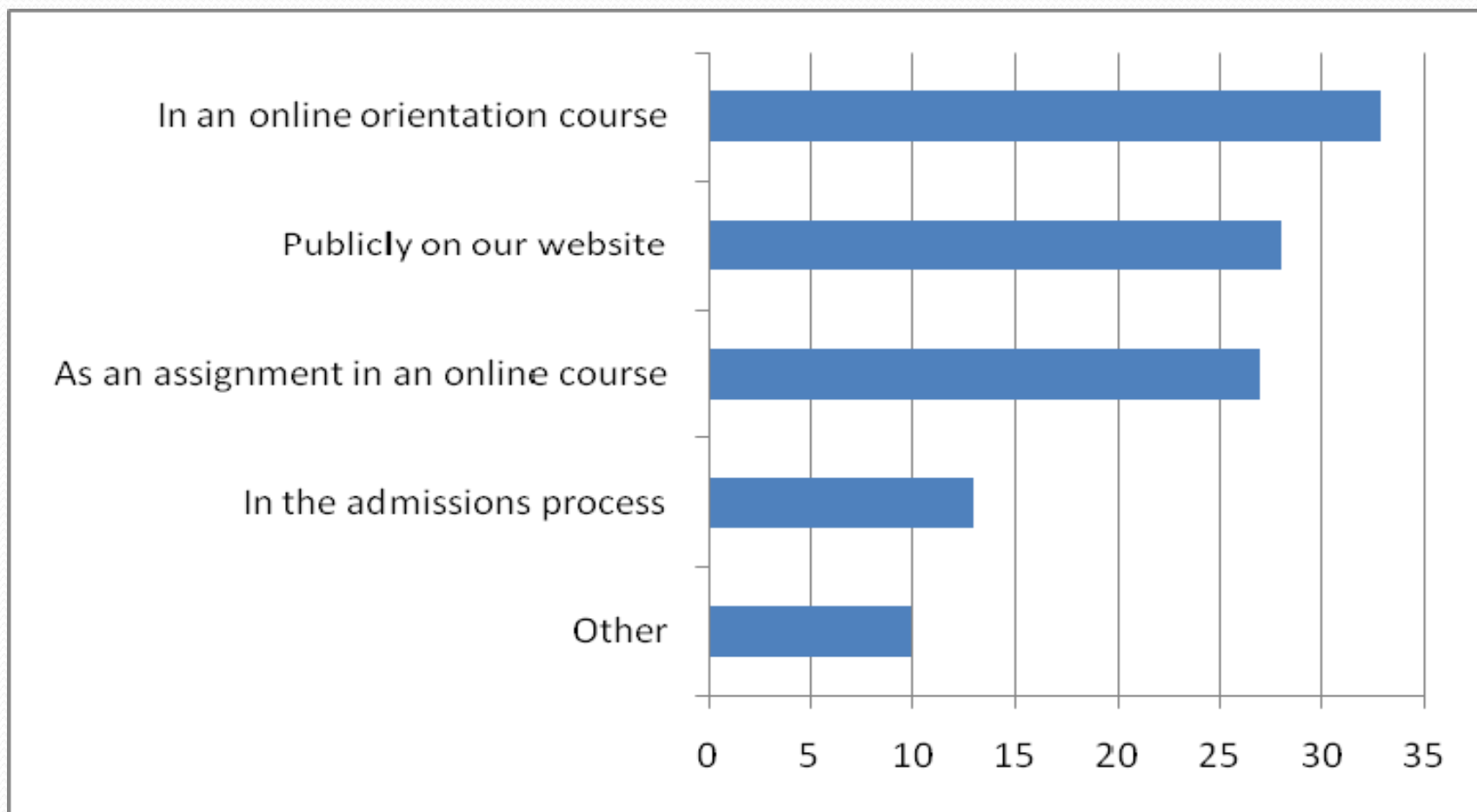
Endorsements of READI

- READI is a fabulous tool that was (is) highly needed in online learning environments.

- READI is helping our college prepare students for their online learning experience.

- We like having one more option for our students and feel the instrument is a good measure to help them make a good choice for the format in which they will learn best.

- READI is a great tool not only for testing distance learning readiness, but for measuring online proficiency as a means of personal development.

Endorsements of READI

- READI is the best tool we have found to help our students determine their readiness for online education. The program is set up to get useful results from our prospective students which can really help them (and our advisors) see their strengths and weaknesses. What a great asset! Having references to sites for further assistance is also a plus so that students can get help on the areas they need to work on.

- READI is a great tool in helping demonstrate to perspective and new students on how prepared they are for online learning. Online learning is a different learning environment and it is important for student to be prepared.

- READI is a tool that helps our students learn more about themselves and our instructors learn more about their students.
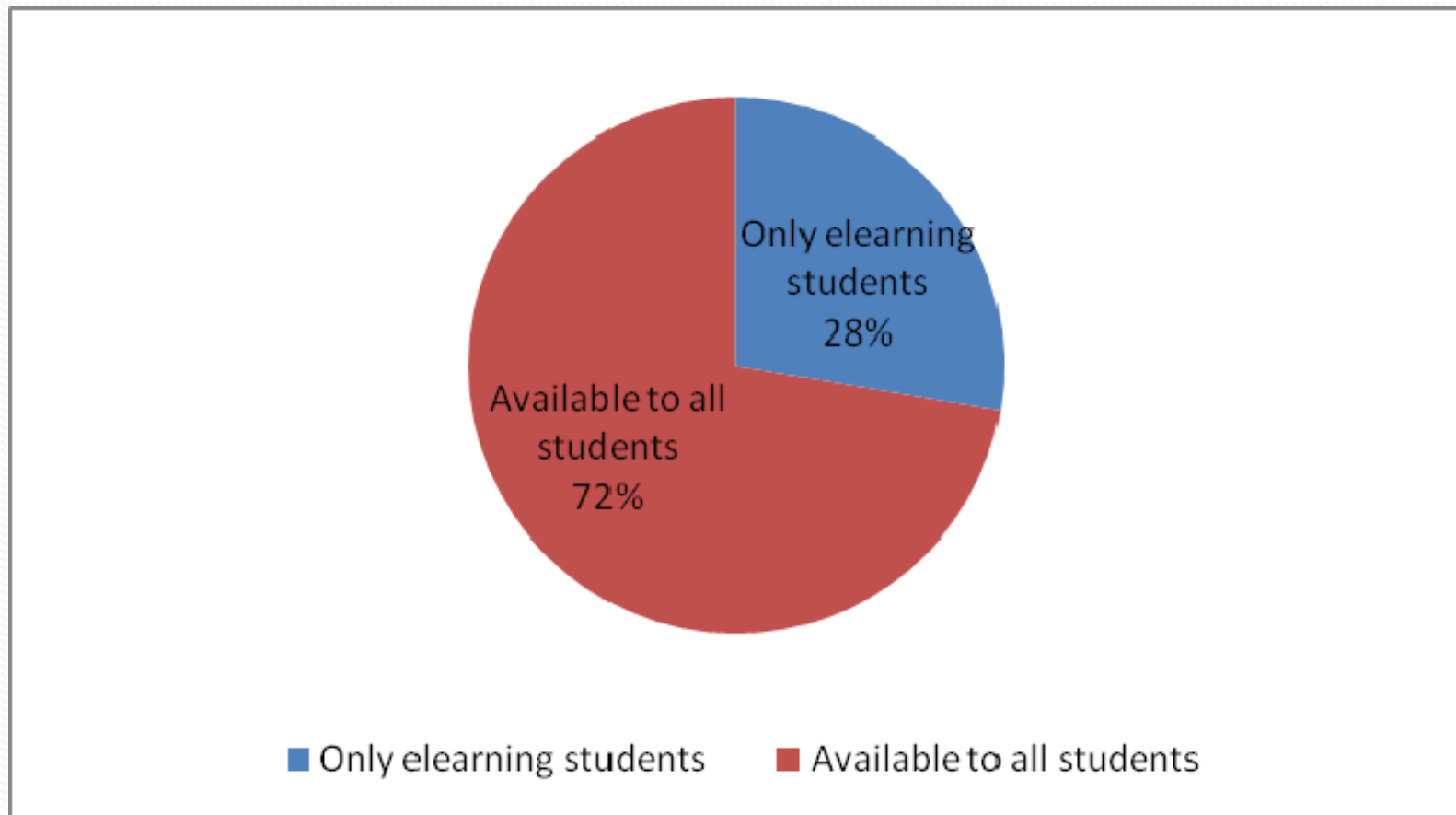
Cost of READI

- Compared to other software which your school uses in its distance learning program, the price of READI for your institution is:
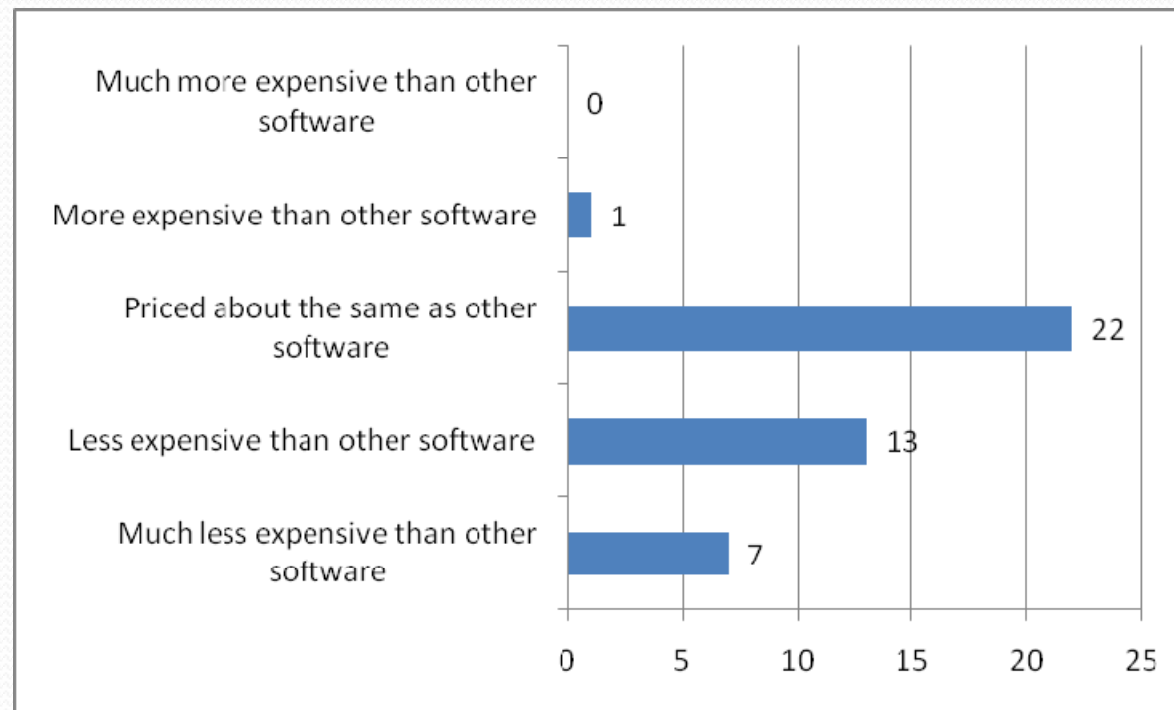
Is READI required or optional?
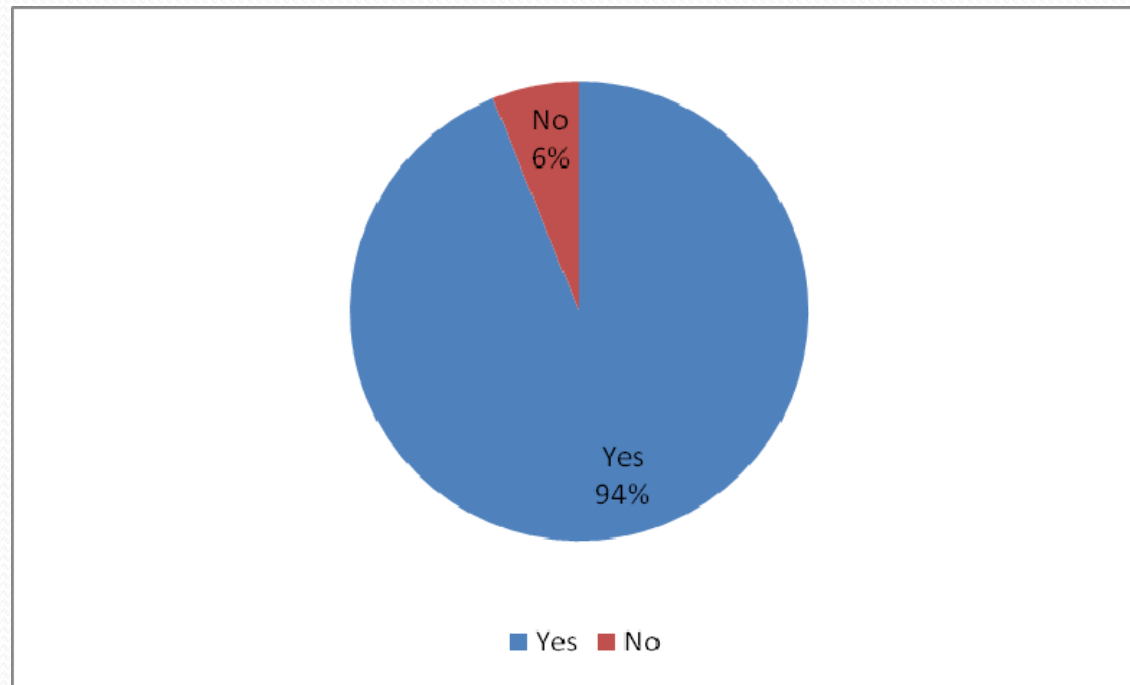
It is required.
27%

It is optional.
73%

■ It is required.   ■ It is optional.
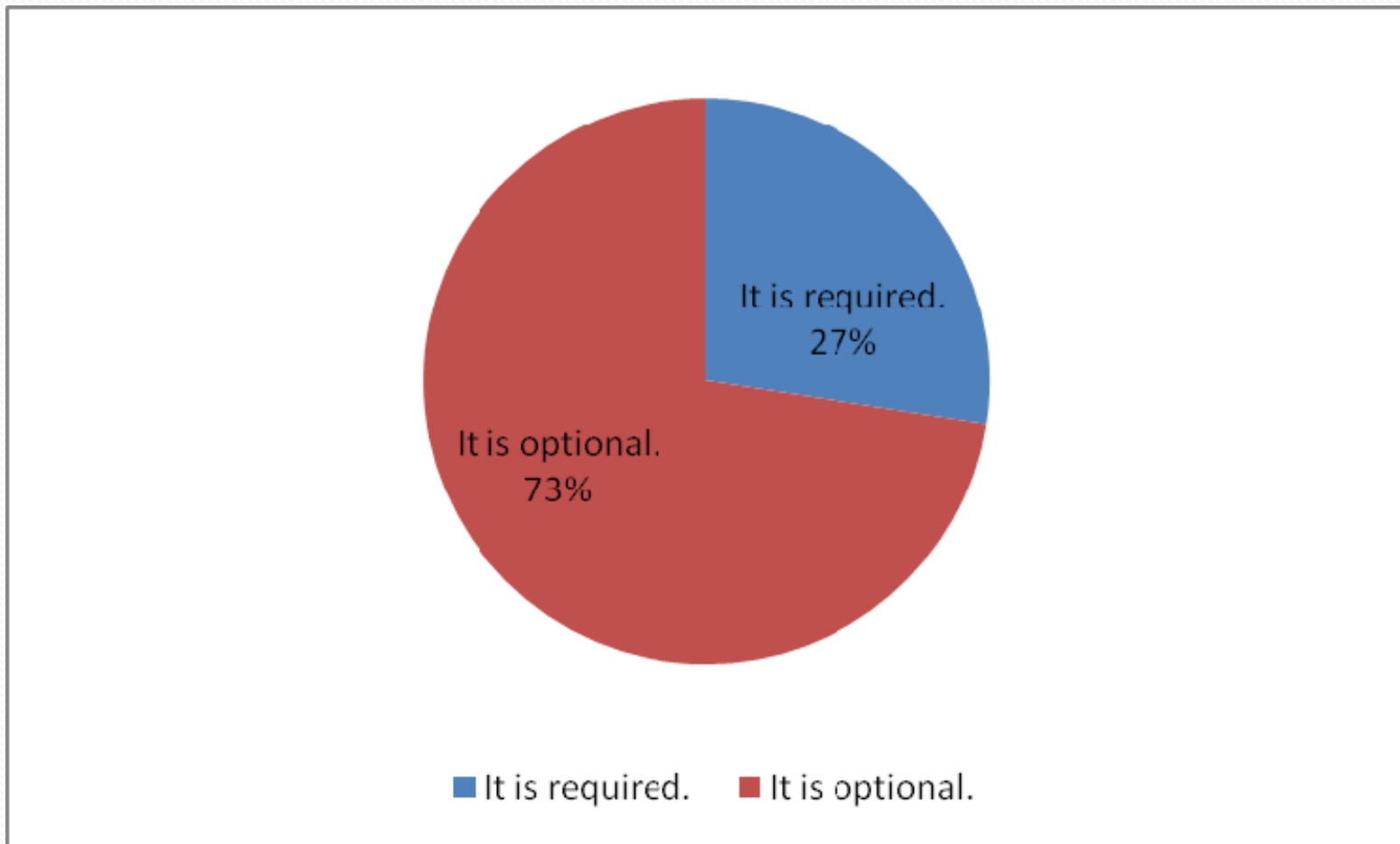
Which students can take READI?

May we list your school as a reference?

- Schools were asked if we could use them as a reference for READI, 94% replied yes.

Learning Management System Used

- Schools were asked to report which Learning Management System they used. This feedback will guide our projects as we develop READI to be integrated in the major LMS tools. We are currently working on eCollege and Blackboard integration.
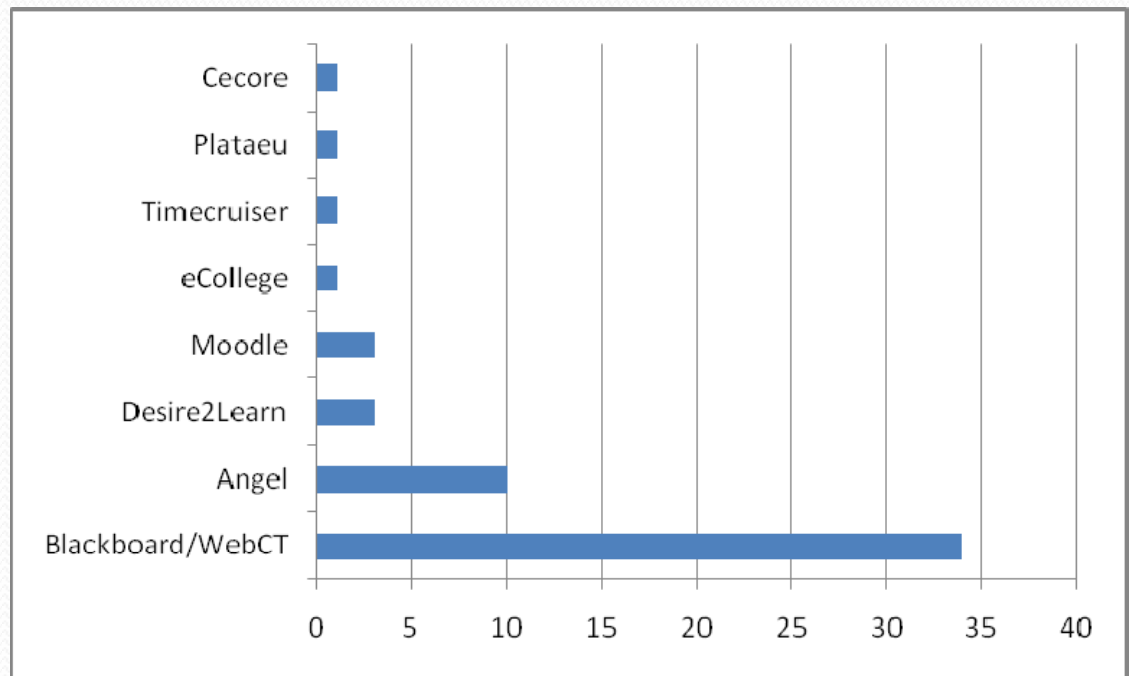
How do you use the student report data?
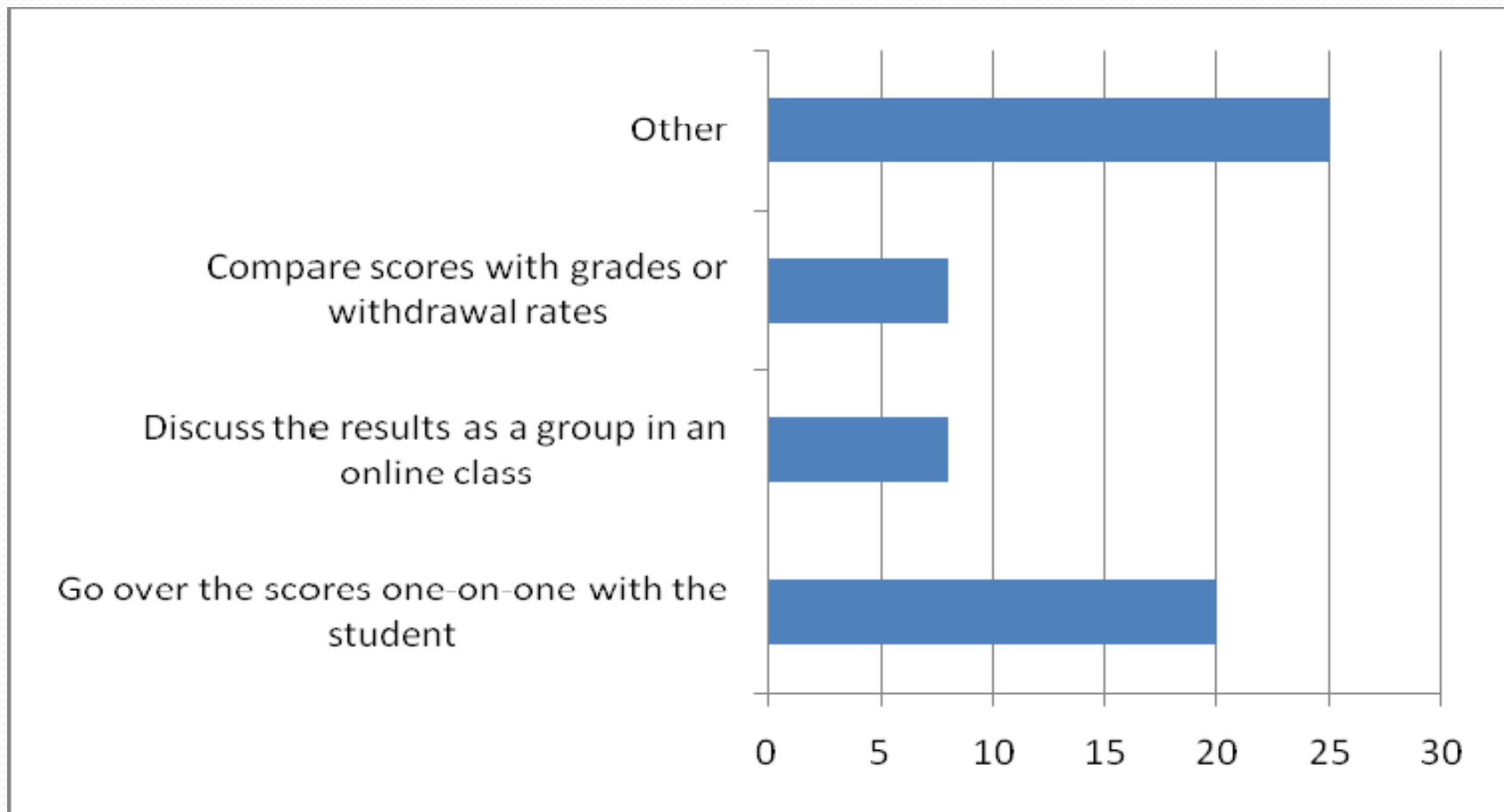
Interest in H.E.L.P.

- Some schools have requested that we create an online resource, similar to a non-credit course, that students can use to remediate themselves if their READI scores are low in a certain area. We are calling this project HELP - Helping ELearners Prepare. Please indicate the degree to which your school would be interested in using a resource like this.

- Based on this feedback we are moving the HELP project up to a higher priority.
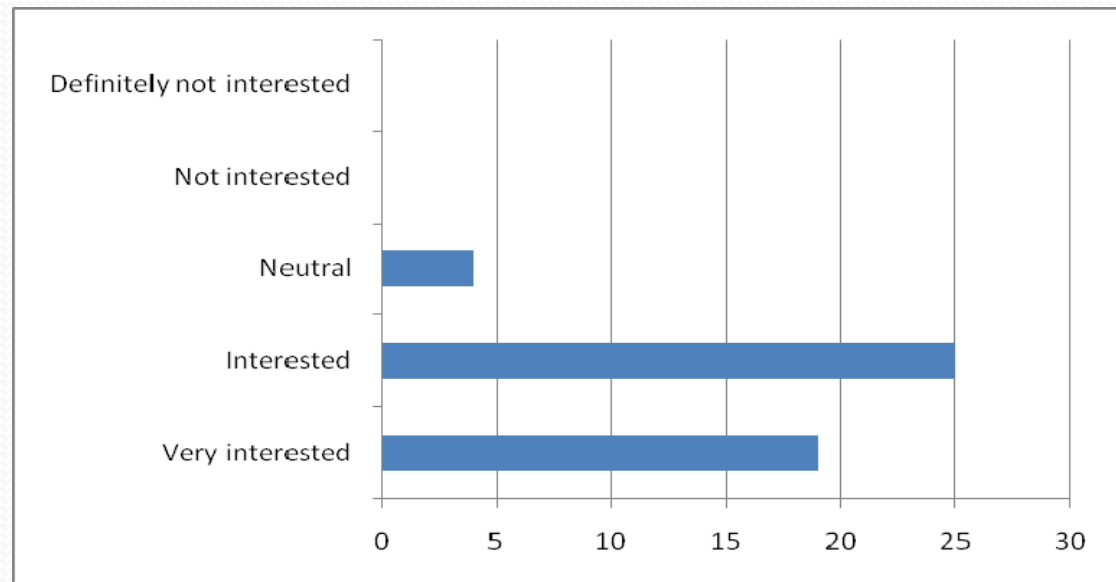
How do students gain access to READI? Other …

- In numerous emails to new registrants for online classes.
- When starting the EC-4th and EC-6th Education programs at SFA, the program advisors requirement students to complete READI.
- Our school of adult learning also uses the READI results from the online orientation in class to discuss learning theories
- Counseling
- Note: The online nursing programs require students to take READI.
- E-mail school counselors and offer it as a resource to share with their students.
- As an assignment in required ORI class for freshmen. Also, link is on the homepage for DL students

How do students gain access to READI? Other …

- Assigned in all teaching formats of orientation course.   Online, in classroom, telecourse.
- Distribution lists to all online faculty.
- We are getting ready to use it in our new online orientation that will be offered beginning fall, 2009.
- The READI assessment is required for any student who wants to take an online class.
- We are hoping to get our academic advisors using all or a portion of READI in their advising process.
- Component of placement testing.

Other comments about student access to READI...

- We encourage students to take the READI test to discover the level of skills they have in regard to the online environment. It is used in our College Orientation course, suggested by advisors prior to the student taking an online course, posted on our distance learning website, and promoted during online orientation.

- Email a letter prior to quarter starting.

- We are using it primarily (at this time) for a recruitment tool for our new high school dual enrollment program.

- We have designated a specific page on the Distance Learning site that informs students of the benefits of the READI system as well as the credentials required.

Other comments about student access to READI…

- We don't limit READI to just our students. Anyone interested in taking an online course, whether registered yet or not, is advised to take the survey.

- Handouts in class.

- We are in a pilot program. Three distance courses are requiring the READI and all entering summer and fall quarter students are being administered the READI at their placement testing session.

- Some Instructors tell students and require it in their courses.

- A link for the READI assessment along with the user name and password are prominently displayed on TJC?s Distance Education page so anyone can take the assessment. Our DE professors have a link to the READI assessment under their getting started module as part of the DE orientation.

Other comments about student access to READI…

- Brochures and signs are posted around campus and in the testing center, library, and students lounge.

- We also send a letter or email with the login instructions.

- We are currently working on an online orientation for potential students that will include the READI survey.

- We have an automatic email that is sent to students when they fill out our student information form. The email contains information about the READI assessment.

How do you use the student report data? Other…

- I use it at the beginning of the semester to make sure students get the support they need.
- It is used as a self-awarness tool
- The advisors in the programs mentioned previously have their own system of feedback with the students.
- Students are asked to review it themselves. The School of Adult Learning, however, discusses the results in class.
- On an institution-wide basis, we don't do anything with the data at this time. A number of instructors have begun requesting that their students send the reports to them.
- We discuss how to use their reports during the online orientation and in the college orientation.

How do you use the student report data? Other...

- As we have just now gotten on board with READI, we have not yet analyzed any data. We will probably use it for research and effectiveness, and for recruitment.

- If we see a student is struggling with their class we go over the READI results with them to point out how they might improve. Otherwise, they go through the report on their own and use the references as much or little as they need to.

- I'm not sure if students go over the results in Troy 1101. I am now looking at the results reports to see if we should make adjustments to our orientation bases on the Readi results.

- Our students are given the opportunity to use the online discussion tool in their online orientation course to discuss their results.

- We use this instrument as more of a tool for students to gauge their own potential success in online courses. We also use it to make them aware of specific policies we have in place within online courses. Potentially, we might be able to use this information to track withdrawal rates based on the success/failure of READI based components.

How do you use the student report data? Other…

- At this time, we only use it as a self-assessment for the students.
- I look at the scores and counsel with those students who may have problems taking a course online.
- I review it to consider ways I can best help students learn. If I saw a student who I thought would face difficulties I would let the student know of additional (beyond my class) steps I'd recommend (i.e., using the writing center, getting a reading tutor, etc.)
- Reading instructors assign READI and review the results with their students one-on-one.
- Pass information to appropriate departments and to staff areas to facilitate effective student learning and educational help
- Reviewed in ORI class as a group…could be online, could be face to face. Depends on the class section.

How do you use the student report data? Other...

- Some instructors use it as an assignment for students in a course. In this case, there is no one-on-one review.

- Instructors tend to review results with students as a group. Counselors may review(but not often) results with students when they are having difficulty with college. We use the results as an opportunity to make students aware of skill building courses (by e-mail).

- This can be used when counselors are assisting students; student's have called for our office to discuss their results; and we also plan to use it for retention/recruitment efforts.

- We are in the initial implementation stages and have not decided on how we will use the student data.

How do you use the student report data? Other…

- Have not determined how data reports will be handled - either by advisors, classroom instructor, placement test administrator.
- We are hoping the advisors will use it with the students (one on one) to help the students recognize their learning styles and technical skill level. We would also like to compare scores with withdrawl rates.
- Different people use the results in different ways. Our administrative department uses it to gage our demographic. Individual advisers and instructors will often go over it one-on-one or as a group.
- I simply administer the tool. The departments use the reports to help advise students.
- Use for entrance & placement. If students do not make the cut off score, they are not allowed to enroll in a completely online class.
- Currently it is used only as a self-diagnostic tool.

Other Comments about READI

- I like the product thus far.

- The main problem with this assessment is that it doesn't provide students with ways to remedy the issues that might keep them from being a good distance learning student. If you could provide suggestions or proven ways to overcome obstacles, I'd find this kind of survey useful. As it, it only stands as a means of discouragement for some of our students.

- I look forward to hearing how other schools are using READI, thank you, ahead of time, for sharing these results.

- FYI: Our faculty body would like to use READI as a "gate keeper tool" (so to speak) for distance learning courses, but the college currently does not require a pre-requisite course or READI evaluation score before allowing enrollment in online courses.

Other Comments about READI

- Thank you for this tool! The extra support, ready to got to get students prepared for online learning is truly appreciated.
- The only reason that I declined to have us considered for a case study is that we have only been pilot testing READI this school year. We intend to implement the software on a much larger scale beginning in the Fall 2008 term and should have better feedback for you next year.
- Thanks for allowing us to demo this product. I am feeling confident that we will use this product, especially in our Title III assessments. Thanks again!
- At this time WCJC has not implemented the READI program.
- Getting education to adopt changes is a slow, painful process.

Other Comments About READI

- We are still piloting, so don't have many answers yet
- At first we had some log-in issues, but in the past few months, I have had zero questions from students or instructors.
- I have found this to be very user-friendly thus far. I rarely get questions from people taking it.
- It would be great to know how other schools are marketing READI, and how effective that marketing is.
- Have already submitted requests to my representative which have been included in subsequent upgrades.

Participating Schools

Alamo - Northwest Vista	Anne Arundel Community College	Blinn College	Brazosport College	Capella University
Century Community and Technical College	Clarian Health	College of Southern Maryland	Columbus State Community College	Dallas TeleCollege
Darton College	Delmar College	Flint River Technical College	Gadsden State Community College	Galveston College
Gateway Technical College	Grayson County College	Hillsborough Community College	Laredo Community College	Lubbock Christian University
Mississippi State University	Montcalm Community College	Montgomery College	National Park Community College	Niagara County Community College
North Central State College North Central Texas College	North Park University	Northwestern Technical College	Ohio University	Owens Community College
Paul D. Camp Community College	Phoenix College	Pinellas Technical Education Centers	Rhodes State College	Sanford Brown College - Fenton
Sanford Brown Institute - Tampa	Southside Virginia Community College	Southwest Mississippi Community College	St. Philip's College	Stephen F. Austin State University
Texas A & M - Commerce	Texas State Technical College West Texas	Texas Woman's University	Troy University	Troy University
Tyler Junior College	Tyler Junior College	University of Northern Colorado	Western Wyoming Community College	York Technical College
York Technical College				