

FACT SHEET

Georgia Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

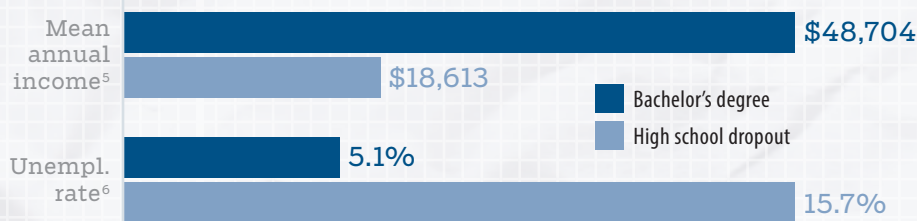
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the nation for success in college and careers.

Georgia's students deserve a high-quality and robust education

Today, nearly every high-paying job requires some postsecondary education or training. In order to compete for 21st century jobs, Georgia's students need a strong academic base that prepares them for success in the knowledge-based economy.

But currently, the system in Georgia is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. Georgia's high school graduation rate lags 23.9 percent behind the nation's highest-performing state.¹ And even more alarmingly, Georgia's college graduation rate among adults lags 28 percent behind America's highest-performing state.²

In Georgia, adults with a bachelor's degree earn nearly three times more than high school dropouts.



If we want Georgia's students to achieve, we need to expect more

The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

Recognizing the dire need to advance student achievement, Georgia's leaders worked with education officials from across the county to draft a new set of standards to promote critical thinking and problem solving. Georgia initially adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 and joined 44 other states and the District of Columbia in raising the bar for student achievement in math and reading.⁸ By raising expectations and providing support to help students reach them, children in Georgia will be better prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to prosper in higher education and future careers.

Georgia's students are not prepared for future high-skilled jobs

35.3%

of Georgia adults have an associate's degree³

34%

of employers across the country deem the preparation of newly-hired high school graduates as "deficient"⁴

College graduation rates among Georgia adults⁷



28.2%
All students

20.7%
Black students

13.6%
Hispanic students

Low standards are costing Georgia

If Georgia's high school graduation rate matched the national average:⁹



62,149
more Georgia high schoolers would graduate in the next four years.



\$5B
more income would be earned by Georgia adults each year.

Next-generation assessments are needed for a next-generation workforce

Better preparation and K-12 assessments are critical for student success in college and a career. Currently in Georgia, gaps between state- and nationally reported reading and math scores make it near impossible for teachers and parents to know how students are performing in comparison to their peers in other states and across the globe.

Example: How the Common Core can create a higher standard for student achievement



3RD GRADE: OLD GEORGIA TEST¹⁴

Pleasant Hill Elementary School has an outdoor picnic space. This year, the principal wants to put a fence around the space. How many feet of fencing does the principal need.



- A) 28ft
- B) 56ft
- C) 160ft
- D) 320ft



3RD GRADE: COMMON CORE¹⁵

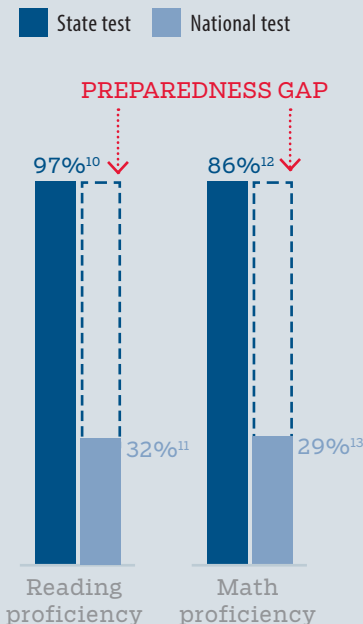
Click on all the equations that are true.

- $8 \times 9 = 81$
- $54 \div 9 = 24 \div 6$
- $7 \times 5 = 25$
- $8 \times 3 = 4 \times 6$
- $49 \div 7 = 56 \div 8$

American students score well below their peers in other countries, and are not expected to know critical math and reading skills as early as their global counterparts. Common Core will help ensure our students are receiving the world-class education they deserve.

The preparedness gap in Georgia

While a majority of students are deemed proficient on state exams, performance on national exams tells a different story.



There is broad support for Common Core in Georgia and across the country

81% OF TEACHERS

in Georgia believe the Common Core standards will improve students' ability to think critically and use reasoning skills.¹⁶

These standards provide consistent framework to prepare students for success in college and the 21st century workplace.

OAK GROVE PTA, ATLANTA¹⁷

Georgia is going through its own growth as we implement the Common Core; we must accept that growing pains are inevitable. The bigger the change, the bigger the pains, but this is an opportunity to grow the achievement of our students, and Georgia teachers are working hard to move in the right direction.

PAM WILLIAMS, 2011 GEORGIA TEACHER OF THE YEAR, *THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION*, 06/27/13¹⁸

"[Common Core] was created by governors and adopted by governors and states, and I think they're great standards to ascribe to. ... this is not a federally-mandated system ... it was created out of the National Governors Association, Democrats and Republicans. If people want to debate the policies of that, I would hope that they use accuracy and facts in their debate.

FORMER GOV. SONNY PERDUE (R-GA)¹⁹

Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Department of Education, "SY2010-11 Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates," available at <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/state-2010-11-graduation-rate-data.pdf> (last accessed November 2013)
- 2 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID 51501 (last accessed November 2013).
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Civic Enterprises and Corporate Voices for Working Families, "Across the Great Divide: Perspectives of CEOs and College Presidents on America's Higher Education and Skills Gap" (2011), available at http://www.civicerprises.net/MediaLibrary/Docs/across_the_great_divide.pdf.
- 5 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID B20004.
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID C17003.
- 7 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID 51501.
- 8 "Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted the Common Core State Standards," available at <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>.
- 9 Center for American Progress projections based on U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates" and Department of Education high school graduation data.
- 10 U.S. Department of Education, "Consolidated State Performance Reports," available at <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/index.html> (last accessed November 2013).
- 11 National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2013 Reading Assessment, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>.
- 12 U.S. Department of Education, "Consolidated State Performance Reports"
- 13 National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2013 Reading Assessment, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>.
- 14 Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Grade 3 CRCT Study Guide, 2013, available at <http://www.clarke.k12.ga.us/files/35688/crcrct%20study%20guide%20grade%203%20january%202013.pdf>.
- 15 PARCC, "Grade 3 Mathematics (Fluency)," available at <http://parconline.org/samples/mathematics/grade-3-mathematics-fluency> (last accessed November 2013).
- 16 Scholastic, "Primary Sources 2013 Preview: Georgia," available at <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/2013preview/state-georgia.htm>.
- 17 Oak Grove PTA, "The Common Core Standards," available at <http://oakgrovepta.org/content/common-core-standards>.
- 18 Maureen Downey, "A Georgia Teacher of the Year: Stay the course with Common Core," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, June 27, 2013, available at <http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/get-schooled/2013/jun/27/georgia-teacher-year-defends-common-core/>.
- 19 Martha Dalton, "Perdue Says He Still Supports Common Core Education Standards," 90.1FM WABE, August 28, 2013, available at <http://wabe.org/post/perdue-says-he-still-supports-common-core-education-standards>.