

## FACT SHEET

# Louisiana Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

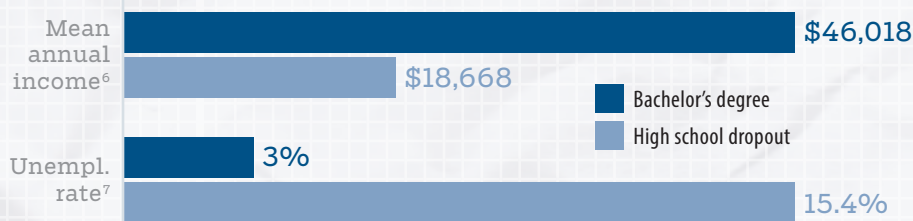
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the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

## Louisiana'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, Louisiana's students need a strong academic base that prepares them for success in the knowledge-based economy.

But currently, the system in Louisiana is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. Louisiana's high school graduation rate lags 9.4 percent behind the national average.<sup>1</sup> And even more alarmingly, Louisiana's college graduation rate among adults lags 24 percent behind the national average.<sup>2</sup>

**In Louisiana, adults with a bachelor's degree earn more than twice as much as high school dropouts.**

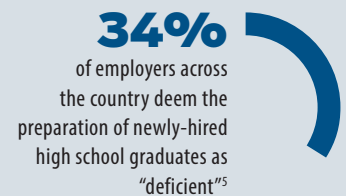
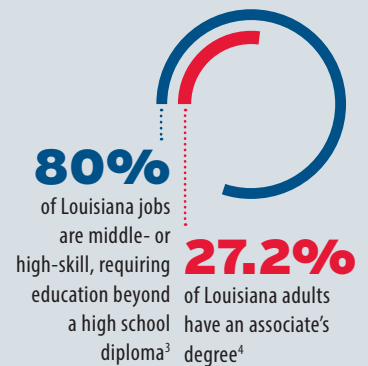


## If we want Louisiana's students to achieve, we need to expect more

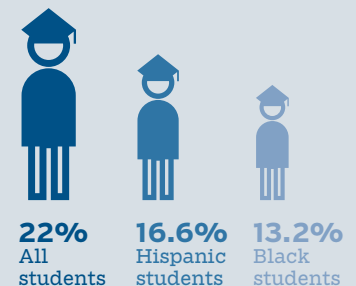
The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

Recognizing the dire need to advance student achievement, Louisiana's leaders worked with education officials from across the county to draft a new set of standards to promote critical thinking and problem solving. Louisiana 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.<sup>9</sup> By raising expectations and providing support to help students reach them, children in Louisiana will be better prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to prosper in higher education and future careers.

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

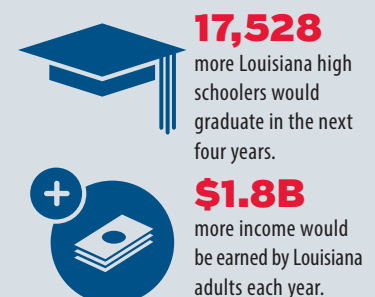


College graduation rates among Louisiana adults<sup>8</sup>



Low standards are costing Louisiana

If Louisiana's high school graduation rate matched the national average:<sup>10</sup>



## 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 Louisiana, 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



#### 4TH GRADE: OLD LOUISIANA TEST<sup>15</sup>

Casey's mother buys five-eighths of a yard of ribbon. Which of the following tells what part of a yard of ribbon she bought?

- A)  $\frac{5}{8}$                       C)  $\frac{1}{13}$   
B)  $\frac{8}{5}$                       D)  $\frac{13}{1}$



#### 4TH GRADE: COMMON CORE<sup>16</sup>

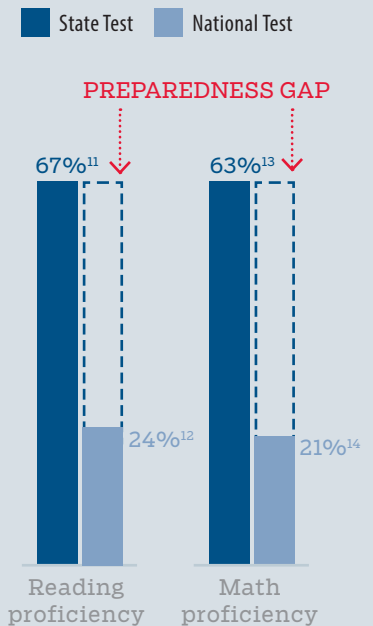
Part A: Write a fraction with a denominator of 100 that is equivalent to  $\frac{2}{10}$ . Use the grids to explain how you know that the fractions are equivalent.

Part B: Write  $\frac{2}{10}$  as a decimal. Then write  $\frac{17}{100}$  as a decimal. Explain how you can use the grids to compare the two decimals.

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 Louisiana

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 Louisiana and across the country

## 81% OF TEACHERS

in Louisiana believe the Common Core standards will improve students' ability to think critically and use reasoning skills.<sup>17</sup>

Our kids have to compete for jobs with kids in other states and other countries. So we are not going to take one step back. We're not going to move one inch off more rigorous and higher standards for our kids.

GOV. BOBBY JINDAL (R-LA)<sup>18</sup>

Louisiana needs to stick with Common Core standards. ...[Common Core] is not a plot by the Obama administration to take over Louisiana schools. It's not a federal initiative at all.

THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE EDITORIAL BOARD<sup>19</sup>

The Common Core State Standards are more challenging, and teachers and parents certainly need support, but we all want the same things, and that is more doors opened and opportunities multiplied.

UNITED WAY OF ACADIANA CEO MARGARET TRAHAN<sup>20</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 "Provisional Data File: 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>
- 2 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S15101.
- 3 "Middle-Skill Jobs State-By-State: Colorado" available at [http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc\\_middleskills\\_colorado.pdf](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc_middleskills_colorado.pdf).
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S15101.
- 5 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.civicenterprises.net/MediaLibrary/Docs/across\\_the\\_great\\_divide.pdf](http://www.civicenterprises.net/MediaLibrary/Docs/across_the_great_divide.pdf).
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID B20004.
- 7 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID B23006.
- 8 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S15101.
- 9 "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>.
- 10 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.
- 11 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).
- 12 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/>
- 13 U.S. Department of Education, "Consolidated State Performance Reports"
- 14 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/>
- 15 Louisiana Department of Education, "Louisiana Educational Assessment Program: Grade 4 Sample Items," 2012, available at <http://www.louisianaschools.net/ldde/uploads/11863.pdf>.
- 16 "PARCC Grade 4 Sample Item," available at [http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC\\_SampleItems\\_Mathematics\\_G4FractionModel\\_081913\\_Final.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC_SampleItems_Mathematics_G4FractionModel_081913_Final.pdf).
- 17 Scholastic, "Primary Sources 2013 Preview: Louisiana," available at <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/2013-preview/state-louisiana.htm>.
- 18 Lauren McLaughly, "Bobby Jindal expands comments on Common Core," The New Orleans Times-Picayune, September 26, 2013, available at [http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/09/bobby\\_jindal\\_expands\\_comments.html](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/09/bobby_jindal_expands_comments.html).
- 19 Editorial Board, "Louisiana needs to stick with Common Core standards: Editorial," New Orleans Times-Picayune, September 25, 2013, available at [http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2013/09/louisiana\\_needs\\_to\\_stick\\_with.html](http://www.nola.com/opinions/index.ssf/2013/09/louisiana_needs_to_stick_with.html).
- 20 Amanda McElfresh, "Panel: Common Core needed in Louisiana to improve college, job performance," theadvertiser.com, October 24, 2013, available at <http://www.theadvertiser.com/interactive/article/20131024/NEWS01/310240017/Panel-Common-Core-needed-Louisiana-improve-college-job-performance>.