

FACT SHEET

North Carolina Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

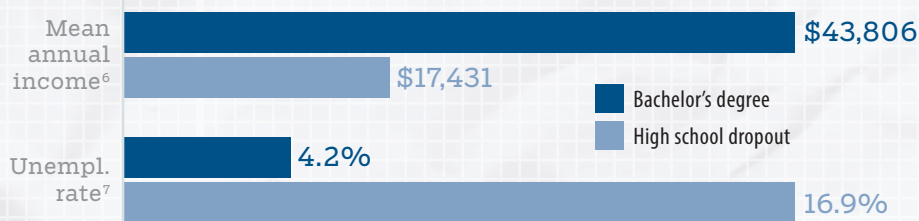
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the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

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

But currently, the system in North Carolina is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. North Carolina's high school graduation rate lags 11 percent behind the nation's highest-performing state.¹ And even more alarmingly, North Carolina's college graduation rate among adults lags 30 percent behind America's highest-performing state.²

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

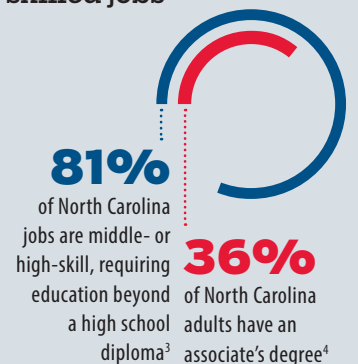


If we want North Carolina's students to achieve, we need to expect more

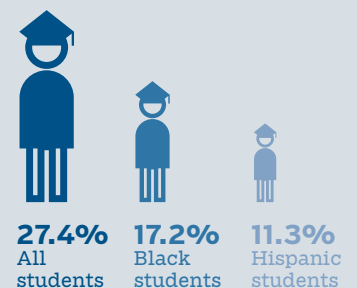
The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

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

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

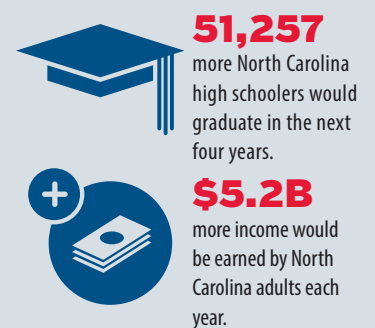


College graduation rates among North Carolina adults⁸



Low standards are costing North Carolina

If North Carolina's high school graduation rate matched the best performing state:¹⁰



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 North Carolina, 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 NORTH CAROLINA TEST¹⁵

Tammy has 6 vases of tulips. There are 9 tulips in each vase. What is the total number of tulips in the vases?

- A) 15 C) 54
B) 36 D) 63



3RD GRADE: COMMON CORE¹⁶

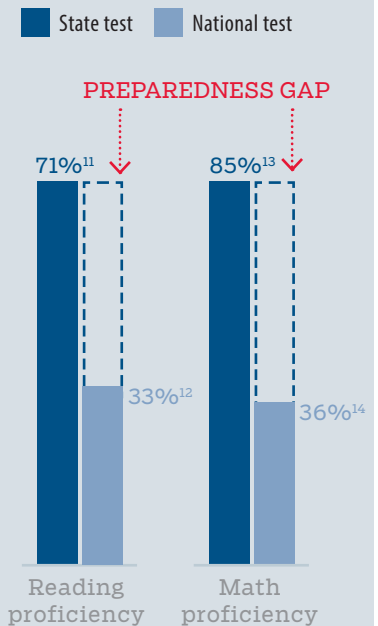
Click on all the equations that are true.

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

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 North Carolina

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 North Carolina and across the country

83% OF TEACHERS

in North Carolina believe the Common Core standards will improve students' ability to think critically and use reasoning skills.¹⁷

The reading and math standards in Common Core are high, relevant and can be applied internationally ... yet [they] can also be applied and implemented here locally.

GOV. PAT MCCRORY (R)¹⁸

In mathematics and English/language arts, the Common Core State Standards represent the high, globally competitive standards that North Carolina students will need to compete for the jobs of tomorrow.

NORTH CAROLINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE¹⁹

N.C. educators have long complained about high school graduates needing remedial courses when entering college. Common Core could better prepare those students – and all students – for life and work in a competitive global economy.

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER EDITORIAL²⁰

Endnotes

- U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S1501 (last accessed November 2013).
- Ibid.
- National Skills Coalition, "Middle-Skill Jobs State-by-State: North Carolina," available at http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc_middlekills_northcarolina.pdf (last accessed November 2013).
- U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S1501.
- 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.
- U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID B20004.
- U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID B23006.
- U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S1501.
- "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>.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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/>.
- U.S. Department of Education, "Consolidated State Performance Reports."
- 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/>.
- "North Carolina READY End-of-Grade Assessment Mathematics, Grade 3, Student Booklet," available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/testing/releasedforms/g3mathnokey.pdf>.
- PARCC, "Grade 3 Mathematics (Fluency)," available at <http://parcconline.org/samples/mathematics/grade-3-mathematics-fluency> (last accessed November 2013).
- Scholastic, "Primary Sources 2013 Preview: North Carolina," available at <http://www.scholastic.com/primary-sources/2013preview/state-nc.htm> (last accessed November 2013).
- Ben McNeely, "Governor, Lt. Governor differ on Common Core standards," Capital Tonight, August 6, 2013, available at <http://capitaltonight.news14.com/2013/08/06/governor-lt-governor-differ-on-common-core-standards/>.
- "Leaders applaud NC's commitment to Career & College Ready standards," NC Stem Learning Network, available at <https://www.ncstem.org/node/589> (last accessed November 2013).
- The Charlotte Observer, "Don't fall for myths about Common Core," June 10, 2013, available at http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/06/10/4097758/dont-fall-for-myths-about-common.html#UncSf_msiSojstorylink=cpy.