

FACT SHEET

New Jersey Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

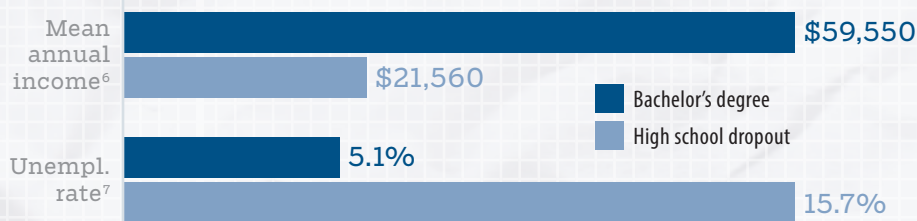
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the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

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

But currently, the system in New Jersey is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. 15,000 New Jersey students between the ages of 16 and 19 dropped out of high school in 2011.¹ And even more alarmingly, New Jersey's college graduation rate among adults lags 8 percent behind America's highest-performing state.²

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

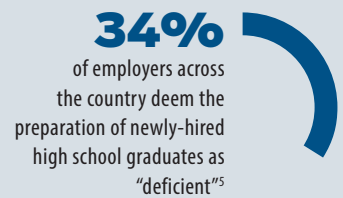
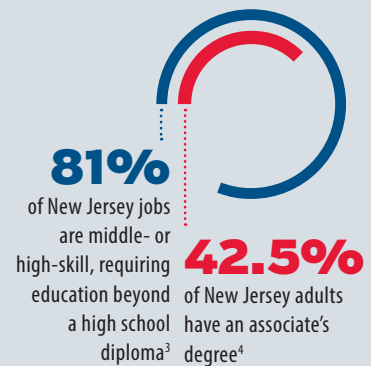


If we want New Jersey's students to achieve, we need to expect more

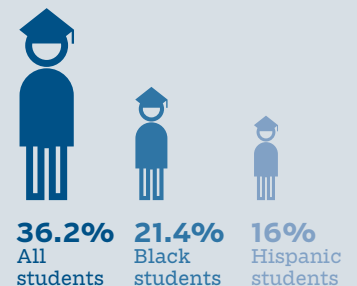
The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

Recognizing the dire need to advance student achievement, New Jersey's leaders worked with education officials from across the county to draft a new set of standards to promote critical thinking and problem solving. New Jersey 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 New Jersey will be better prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to prosper in higher education and future careers.

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

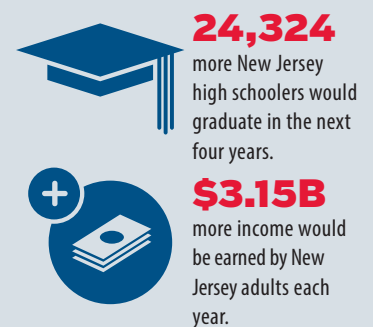


College graduation rates among New Jersey adults⁸



Low standards are costing New Jersey

If New Jersey'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 New Jersey, 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 NEW JERSEY TEST¹⁵

Students pick cards out of a hat to see what kind of book they need to read for a book report. The hat contains 5 cards with *fantasy* written on them, 2 with *biography*, and 3 with *adventure*. What is the probability a student will pick a card with *fantasy* written on it?

A) 1/10 B) 2/10 C) 3/10 D) 5/10



4TH GRADE: COMMON CORE¹⁵

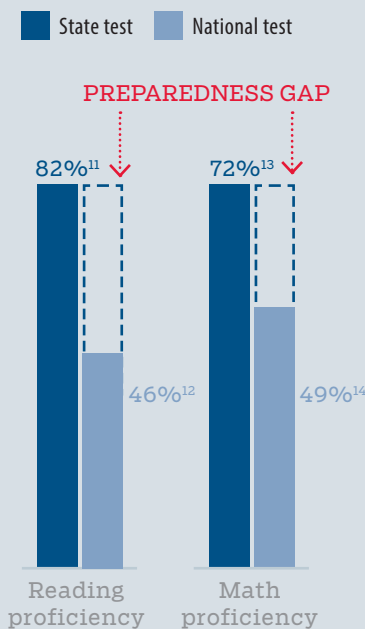
Part A: Write a fraction with a denominator of 100 that is equivalent to $\frac{2}{10}$. Use the grids to explain how you know that the fractions are equivalent.

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 New Jersey

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 New Jersey and across the country

69% OF TEACHERS

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

The Common Core State Standards are a building block in our state's education system meant to ensure that teachers and districts can innovate within a framework of high expectations and accountability. They are based on the fundamental belief that every child in every classroom deserves an education that will properly equip them with the skills they need for college and a career.

GOV. CHRIS CHRISTIE (R-NJ)¹⁸

Our nation needs a core set of educational standards. And we cannot let that be derailed by tea partiers with wide-eyed conspiracy theories, or left-wingers who don't want standards or tests of any kind.

NEW JERSEY STAR-LEDGER EDITORIAL BOARD¹⁹

The Common Core represents an important step forward for our public schools. The standards were designed with the real world in mind, reflecting the knowledge and skills that NJ's students need for success in college and careers and ultimately, to compete successfully in the global economy.

NJSACC: THE STATEWIDE NETWORK FOR NEW JERSEY'S AFTERSCHOOL COMMUNITIES²⁰

Endnotes

- 1 Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey.
- 2 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S15101 (last accessed November 2013).
- 3 National Skills Coalition, "Middle-Skill Jobs State-by-State: New Jersey," available at http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc_middleskills_newjersey.pdf (last accessed November 2013).
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S15101 (last accessed November 2013).
- 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.civicerprises.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 NJ Statewide Assessment Sample Test - NJ ASK Mathematics, Grade 3 and Grade 4 Assessment Samples," available at http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/es/sample/NJ06_Math_sample.pdf
- 16 PARCC, "Grade 4 Mathematics (Fluency)," available at http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC_SampleItems_Mathematics_G4FractionModel_081913_Final.pdf (last accessed November 2013).
- 17 Scholastic, "Primary Sources 2013 Preview: New Jersey," available at <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/2013preview/state-nj.htm> (last accessed November 2013).
- 18 Chris Christie, "Christie Administration Takes Action to Implement Building Block of High Academic Standards in New Jersey Schools," September 13, 2011, available at <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552011/approved/20110913a.html>.
- 19 Editorial Board, "Lonegan's drivel on Common Core: Editorial," New Jersey Star-Ledger, September 13, 2013, available at http://blog.nj.com/nj_editorial_page/2013/09/lonegans_drivel_on_common_core.html.
- 20 "NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities," available at <http://www.njsacc.org/providers/supportingStudentSuccess.php> (last accessed November 2013).