ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION

Accelerating the College and Career Readiness of Alaska's Students

In today's economy, all students must graduate from high school ready to succeed in college and their careers

Percentage of Students Graduating from High School Class of 2007[1]

	Alaska	Nation
All Students	65%	69%
White	64%	76%
Hispanic	+	55%
Black	33%	51%
Asian	64%	79%
American Indian	33%	50%

+Insufficient or no data provided

Alaska and the nation need more college graduates

By 2018, the nation will need to increase the number of postsecondary degrees conferred by about 10 percent annually in order to meet workforce demands.[2]

Alaska's College Graduation Rates Versus National Average[3]

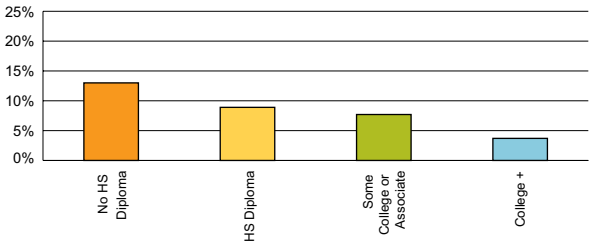
	Four-Year Institution*	National Average*	Two-Year Institution**	National Average**
All Students	22%	56%	19%	31%
White	26%	59%	32%	32%
Hispanic	15%	46%	+	29%
Black	20%	39%	+	26%
Asian	18%	66%	+	33%
American Indian	10%	38%	16%	27%

+Insufficient or no data provided
*Graduation within six years of entrance (Cohort from 2002–2008)
**Graduation within three years of entrance (Cohort from 2005–2008)

Students in Alaska who began college but did not return for a second year received a cumulative **$1.8 million** in **federal** grants and a cumulative **$39.4 million** in **state** expenditures.[4]

Higher levels of college and career readiness equals higher employment

2009 Alaska Unemployment Status by Education[5]



Bolster economic vitality: Over **3,900** students did not graduate from Alaska's high schools in 2010; the lost lifetime earnings in Alaska for that class of dropouts total **$1 billion**.[6]

To accelerate college and career readiness, Alaska teachers see the need for fewer, clearer, and better standards

Impact of Improving Standards on Academic Achievement from Alaska's Teachers View[7]

	Clearer Academic Standards	Common Standards Across All States	Tougher Academic Standards	Fewer Academic Standards
Strong or Very Strong Effect	66%	53%	43%	29%
Moderate Effect	29%	35%	44%	30%
No Effect	5%	12%	13%	41%

The vast majority of states have decided to improve their standards to support college and career readiness

- Forty-eight states participated in the creation of the common core state standards, which build on the best state standards and go further by internationally benchmarking and back-mapping them for grades K–12. **Alaska was not one of those states.**
- As of April 2011, forty-four states have adopted the common core state standards in mathematics and English language arts. **Alaska is not one of those states.**

To have a clear measure of college and career readiness, state assessments must accurately reflect student achievement; current tests do not

Alaska's Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by Alaska State Tests and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)[8]

	State	NAEP
Reading	82%	27%
Math	66%	33%

- The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **reading** scores is **41** percentage points. Alaska's gap is **55** percentage points.
- The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **math** scores is **32** percentage points. Alaska's gap is **33** percentage points.

Forty-five states are working to create common assessment systems aligned to college- and career-ready standards

Two groups of states have formed to develop these next-generation assessment systems, scheduled to be available during the 2014–15 school year. **Alaska is not participating in either consortia.**

Consistent standards and assessments make common and economic sense

- **Ease transition for students who move from state to state.** In 2009, about **7,913** school-aged children moved ***to*** Alaska from another state; about **12,224** students moved ***from*** Alaska to another state.[9]
- **Help states realize economies of scale and improve test quality by working together.** Currently, states spend a combined **$1.3 billion annually** to develop, publish, administer, score, and report on their own state tests.[10]
- **Reduce the need for remediation in college.** The need for remediation among students entering Alaska's postsecondary institutions unprepared for postsecondary work cost the state over **$7.9 million** during the 2007–08 school year.[11]

1. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, *Diplomas Count,* 2010.
2. A. Carnevale, N. Smith, and J. Strohl, *Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Economic Requirements Through 2018* (Washington, DC: Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, 2010).
3. Analysis of data from NCES Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2010.
4. M. Schneider, *Finishing the First Lap: The Cost of First-Year Student Attrition in America's Four-Year Colleges and Universities* (American Institute for Research: Washington, DC: 2010).
5. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010.
6. Alliance for Excellent Education, "The High Cost of High School Dropouts," unpublished.
7. Scholastic, 2010.
8. NCES, *Nation's Report Card: Reading 2009*; NCES, *Nation's Report Card: Math 2009*; U.S. Department of Education, "EDFacts State Profiles," 2010.
9. U.S. Census Bureau, "American Community Survey," 2009.
10. Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education, 2010.
11. Alliance for Excellent Education, "Saving Now and Saving Later" (Washington, DC: Author, 2011).

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