



## Accelerating the College and Career Readiness of Massachusetts' Students

Massachusetts is in the process of transitioning to new English language arts and mathematics standards that will better prepare students to be successful in college and their careers. Time, effort, and resources must be dedicated to effective implementation in order to realize the promise of these new common core state standards.

### 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<sup>1</sup>

	Massachusetts	Nation
All Students	77%	69%
White	83%	76%
Hispanic	53%	55%
Black	62%	51%
Asian	80%	79%
American Indian	43%	50%

### MASSACHUSETTS 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.<sup>2</sup>

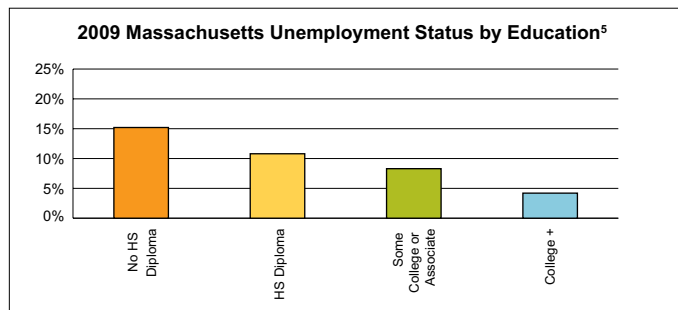
#### Massachusetts' College Graduation Rates Versus National Average<sup>3</sup>

	Four-Year Institution*	National Average*	Two-Year Institution**	National Average**
All Students	69%	56%	22%	31%
White	70%	59%	24%	32%
Hispanic	63%	46%	20%	29%
Black	58%	39%	15%	26%
Asian	78%	66%	22%	33%
American Indian	54%	38%	26%	27%

\*Graduation within six years of entrance (Cohort from 2002–2008)  
 \*\*Graduation within three years of entrance (Cohort from 2005–2008)

Students in Massachusetts who began college but did not return for a second year received a cumulative **\$36.9 million** in federal grants and a cumulative **\$175.5 million** in state expenditures.<sup>4</sup>

### HIGHER LEVELS OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS EQUALS HIGHER EMPLOYMENT



**Bolster economic vitality:** Nearly **14,200** students did not graduate from Massachusetts' high schools in 2010; the lost lifetime earnings in Massachusetts for that class of dropouts total **\$3.7 billion**.<sup>6</sup>

### TO ACCELERATE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS, MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS SEE THE NEED FOR FEWER, CLEARER, AND BETTER STANDARDS

#### Impact of Improving Standards on Academic Achievement from Massachusetts' Teachers View<sup>7</sup>

	Clearer Academic Standards	Common Standards Across All States	Tougher Academic Standards	Fewer Academic Standards
Strong or Very Strong Effect	72%	56%	43%	31%
Moderate Effect	25%	33%	42%	39%
No Effect	3%	11%	15%	30%

### MASSACHUSETTS DECIDED TO IMPROVE ITS STANDARDS TO SUPPORT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS AND IS WORKING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

- Massachusetts was one of forty-eight states that 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.
- As of April 2011, Massachusetts was one of forty-four states to have adopted the common core state standards in mathematics and English language arts.

### TO HAVE A CLEAR MEASURE OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS, STATE ASSESSMENTS MUST ACCURATELY REFLECT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT; MOST STATE TESTS DO NOT

#### Massachusetts' Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by Massachusetts State Tests and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)<sup>8</sup>

	State	NAEP
Reading	79%	43%
Math	49%	52%

- The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported reading scores is **41** percentage points. Massachusetts' gap is **36** percentage points.
- The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported math scores is **32** percentage points. Massachusetts' gap is **-3** percentage points.

### MASSACHUSETTS IS ONE OF FORTY-FIVE STATES 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. **Massachusetts is participating in Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers.**

### CONSISTENT STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS MAKE COMMON AND ECONOMIC SENSE

- Ease transition for students who move from state to state.** In 2009, about **13,327** school-aged children moved **to** Massachusetts from another state; about **12,716** students moved **from** Massachusetts to another state.<sup>9</sup>
- 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.<sup>10</sup>
- Reduce the need for remediation in college.** The need for remediation among students entering Massachusetts' postsecondary institutions unprepared for postsecondary work cost the state over **\$46 million** during the 2007–08 school year.<sup>11</sup>

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).