



## Accelerating the College and Career Readiness of the Nation's Students

States are in the process of transitioning to new English language arts and mathematics standards that will better prepare students to be successful in college and a career. 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 A CAREER

Percentage of Students Graduating from High School Class of 2007<sup>1</sup>

	Nation
All Students	69%
White	76%
Hispanic	55%
Black	51%
Asian	79%
American Indian	50%

### MORE STUDENTS NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR SUCCESS BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

Percentage of ACT-Tested High School Graduates Ready for College-Level Course Work in 2010<sup>2</sup>

	Nation
All Four Core Subjects	24%
English	66%
Math	43%
Reading	52%
Science	29%

### THE NATION NEEDS MORE COLLEGE GRADUATES

National College Graduation Rates<sup>3</sup>

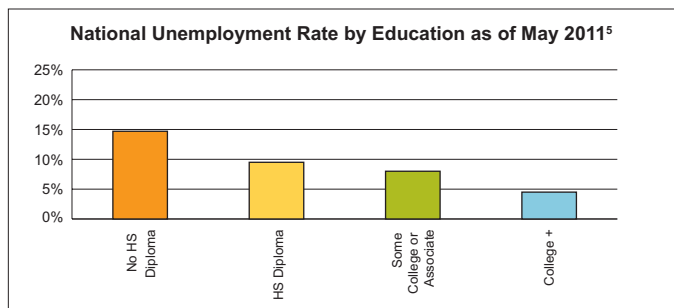
	Four-Year Institution National Average*	Two-Year Institution National Average**
All Students	56%	31%
White	59%	32%
Hispanic	46%	29%
Black	39%	26%
Asian	66%	33%
American Indian	38%	27%

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

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

Students across the nation who began college but did not return for a second year received a cumulative **\$1.5 billion** in federal grants and benefitted from a cumulative **\$7.5 billion** in state expenditures.<sup>4</sup>

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



**Bolster economic vitality:** Nearly **1.3 million** students did not graduate from the nation's high schools in 2010; the lost lifetime earnings of that class of dropouts total **\$337 billion**.<sup>6</sup>

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

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

	Clearer Academic Standards	Common Standards Across All States	Tougher Academic Standards	Fewer Academic Standards
Strong or Very Strong Effect	73%	59%	45%	34%
Moderate Effect	22%	31%	40%	36%
No Effect	4%	10%	14%	28%

### STATES ACROSS THE NATION DECIDED TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARDS TO SUPPORT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS AND ARE WORKING ON IMPLEMENTING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

- 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.
- As of May 2011, forty-four states have adopted the common core state standards.

### TO HAVE A CLEAR MEASURE OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS, STATE ASSESSMENTS MUST ACCURATELY REFLECT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT; CURRENT TESTS DO NOT<sup>8</sup>

- The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported reading scores is **57** percentage points.
- The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported math scores is **41** percentage points.

### FORTY-FIVE STATES ARE WORKING TO CREATE COMMON ASSESSMENTS ALIGNED WITH COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY STANDARDS

To develop these next-generation assessments, scheduled to be available during the 2014–15 school year, forty-five states are participating in one or both of the following consortia: **Smarter Balanced Assessment and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)**. For more information, visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter> and <http://www.achieve.org/PARCC>.

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

- Ease transition for students who move from state to state.** In 2009 about **905,200** school-aged children moved from one state to another.<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 state tests.<sup>10</sup>
- Reduce the need for remediation in college.** The need for remediation among students entering the nation's postsecondary institutions unprepared for postsecondary work cost the nation more than **\$3.6 billion** during the 2007–08 school year.<sup>11</sup>

1. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center, *Diplomas Count*, 2010.

2. ACT, "College Readiness by State," 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. U.S. Department of Education, NCES, *The Nation's Report Card: Reading 2009*; U.S. Department of Education, NCES, *The 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).