

# North Carolina High Schools

## DROPOUTS AND POORLY PREPARED STUDENTS HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY

Nearly 46,700 students did not graduate from North Carolina's high schools in 2009; the lost lifetime earnings in North Carolina for that class of dropouts alone total more than **\$12.1 billion**.<sup>1</sup>

North Carolina would save more than **\$491.6 million** in health care costs over the lifetimes of each class of dropouts had they earned their diplomas.<sup>2</sup>

If North Carolina's high schools graduated all of their students ready for college, the state would save almost **\$97.4 million** a year in community college remediation costs and lost earnings.<sup>3</sup>

North Carolina's economy would see a combination of crime-related savings and additional revenue of about **\$233 million** each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just 5%.<sup>4</sup>

## THE BEST ECONOMIC STIMULUS IS A DIPLOMA

### North Carolina High School Graduation Rates (Class of 2006)

State-Reported <sup>5</sup>	U.S. Department of Education-Reported <sup>6</sup>	Independently Reported <sup>7</sup>
70%	72%	63%

### North Carolina High School Graduation Rates by Race (Class of 2006)<sup>8</sup>

	North Carolina	Nation
All Students	63%	69%
White	70%	76%
Black	45%	51%
Hispanic	50%	55%
Asian	74%	79%
Native American	44%	50%

### North Carolina College Graduation Rates<sup>9</sup>

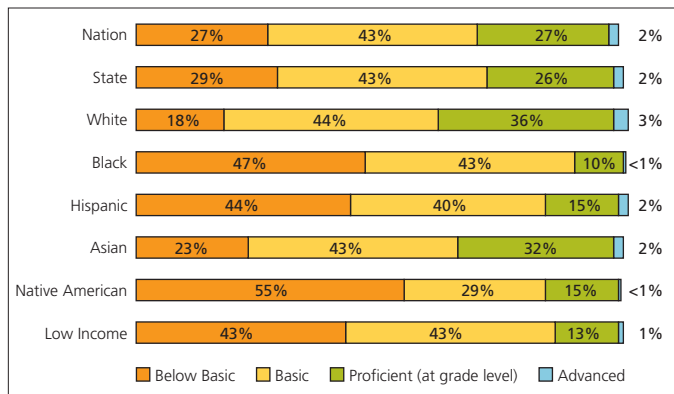
	Four-Year Institution*	National Average*	Two-Year Institution**	National Average**
All Students	58%	56%	25%	32%
White	63%	59%	28%	33%
Black	46%	41%	17%	27%
Hispanic	56%	48%	26%	34%
Asian	71%	66%	23%	34%
Native American	47%	39%	13%	29%

\*Graduation within six years of entrance (Cohort from 2000–2006)

\*\*Graduation within three years of entrance (Cohort from 2003–2006)

## THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP REMAINS A CHALLENGE

### National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Scores for North Carolina Eighth Graders<sup>10</sup>



**44%** of North Carolina eighth graders report being eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.<sup>11</sup>

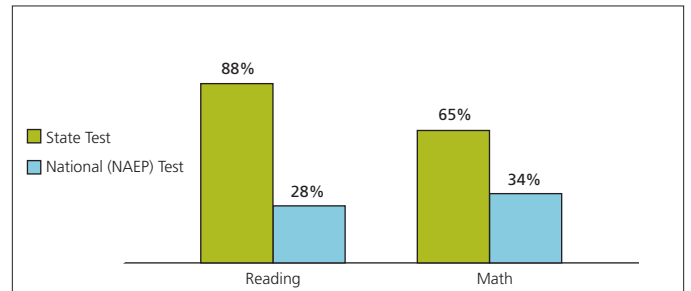
## THE HIGH SCHOOL CRISIS IS CONCENTRATED IN THE NATION'S DROPOUT FACTORIES

Dropout factories are high schools in which the number of seniors is routinely 60% or fewer than the number of freshmen three years earlier. These dropout factories generally have high proportions of minority and/or low-income students.

	Number of Federally Reported Regular High Schools <sup>12</sup>	Number of Dropout Factories <sup>13</sup> (three-year average)
North Carolina	416	79
Nation	15,813	1,907

## STATE AND FEDERAL PROFICIENCY MEASURES DIFFER

### North Carolina Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by North Carolina State Tests and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)<sup>14</sup>



The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **reading** scores is **39** percentage points.

The average gap nationally between state- and NAEP-reported **math** scores is **30** percentage points.

## COMPREHENSIVE DATA SYSTEMS ARE NEEDED

North Carolina has in place eight of the ten elements recommended by the Data Quality Campaign as the start of a robust P–12 longitudinal data system.<sup>15</sup>

	North Carolina
1. The ability to track individual students over time	<b>NO</b>
2. Student-level demographic information	<b>YES</b>
3. The ability to track individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth	<b>YES</b>
4. The ability to know which students have not been tested	<b>YES</b>
5. The ability to match teachers to students by classroom and subject	<b>YES</b>
6. Student-level transcript information	<b>YES</b>
7. Information on student performance on college-readiness examinations like the SAT, ACT, and AP	<b>NO</b>
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data	<b>YES</b>
9. The ability to match student records between the K–12 and higher education systems	<b>YES</b>
10. System in place to evaluate data system quality	<b>YES</b>

To date, only six states have all ten elements in place.

1. Alliance for Excellent Education 2009
2. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
3. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
4. Alliance for Excellent Education 2006
5. (For Federal Accountability Reporting) North Carolina Department of Public Instruction 2009
6. U.S. Department of Education 2007
7. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2009
8. Editorial Projects in Education Research Center 2009
9. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
10. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
11. National Center for Education Statistics 2007
12. National Center for Education Statistics 2008
13. Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University 2009
14. National Center for Education Statistics 2007; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction 2007
15. National Center for Education Accountability 2008