

## FACT SHEET

# California Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

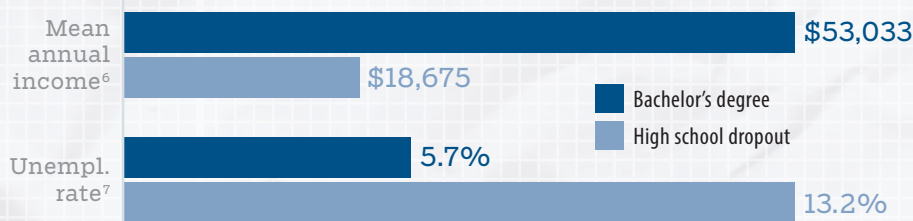
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the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

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

But currently, the system in California is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. California's high school graduation rate lags 14 percent behind the nation's highest-performing state.<sup>1</sup> And even more alarmingly, California's college graduation rate among adults lags 21 percent behind America's highest-performing state.<sup>2</sup>

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

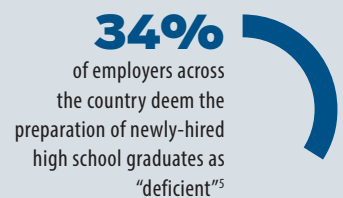
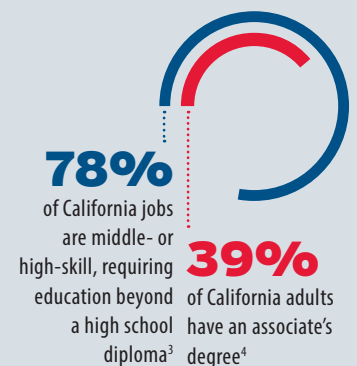


## If we want California's students to achieve, we need to expect more

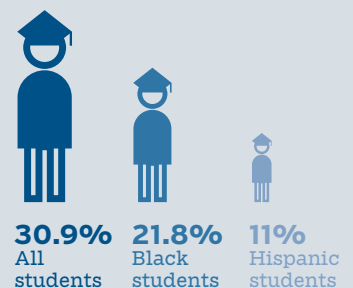
The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

Recognizing the dire need to advance student achievement, California's leaders worked with education officials from across the county to draft a new set of standards to promote critical thinking and problem solving. California 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.<sup>9</sup> By raising expectations and providing support to help students reach them, children in California will be better prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to prosper in higher education and future careers.

**California's students are not prepared for future high-skilled jobs**

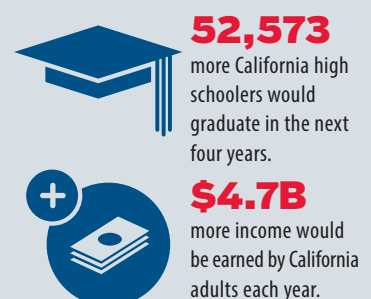


**College graduation rates among California adults<sup>8</sup>**



**Low standards are costing California**

If California's high school graduation rate matched the national average:<sup>10</sup>



## 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 California, 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 CALIFORNIA TEST<sup>15</sup>

Which fraction represents the largest part of a whole?

- A) 1/6                      C) 1/3  
B) 1/4                      D) 1/2



#### 4TH GRADE: COMMON CORE<sup>16</sup>

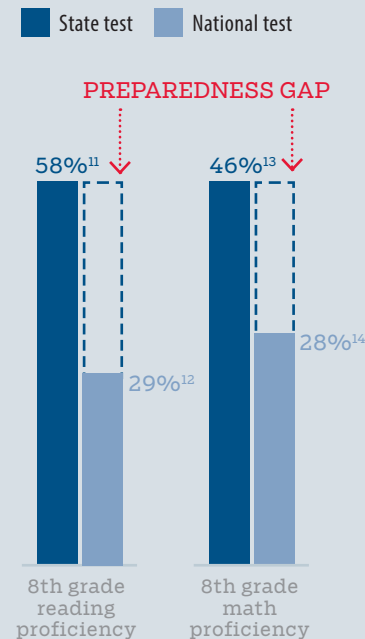
Part A: Write a fraction with a denominator of 100 that is equivalent to  $\frac{2}{10}$ . Use the grids to explain how you know that the fractions are equivalent.

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 California

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 California and across the country

### 78% OF TEACHERS

in California believe the Common Core standards will improve students' ability to think critically and use reasoning skills.<sup>17</sup>

All students deserve to be prepared for successful futures. California should not squander the chance to jump-start the transition to the Common Core State Standards.

MICHAEL HANSON, PRESIDENT OF CORE; BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENT, FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT<sup>18</sup>

I applaud the unanimous vote by the State Board of Education to adopt the enhanced Common Core Standards that maintain California's high expectations and our belief that every student is capable of success in the classroom.

FORMER GOV. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER (R-CA)<sup>19</sup>

It's students who suffer most, finding themselves unprepared for the challenging world outside the classroom. The Common Core State Standards represent a big part of what California — and 44 other states — are doing to address the problem.

MICHAEL W. KIRST, PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY; PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION<sup>20</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S1501 (last accessed November 2013).
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 National Skills Coalition, "Middle-Skill Jobs State-by-State: California," available [http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc\\_middleskills\\_california.pdf](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc_middleskills_california.pdf) (last accessed November 2013).
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S1501.
- 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](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 S1501.
- 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," 8th grade reading proficiency 2011-2012, 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 8th Grade 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," 8th grade math proficiency 2011-2012, available at <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/index.html> (last accessed November 2013).
- 14 National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2013 8th Grade Math Assessment, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>.
- 15 "California Standard Test Questions, Released Test Questions, Math, Grade 4," available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/documents/cstrtm4.pdf>.
- 16 PARCC, "Grade 4 Mathematics (Fluency)," available at [http://parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC\\_SampleItems\\_Mathematics\\_G4FractionModel\\_081913\\_Final.pdf](http://parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC_SampleItems_Mathematics_G4FractionModel_081913_Final.pdf) (last accessed November 2013).
- 17 Scholastic, "Primary Sources 2013 Preview: California," available at <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/2013preview/state-california.htm> (last accessed November 2013).
- 18 Michael Hanson, "Viewpoints: California needs to jump-start move to Common Core standards for schools," The Sacramento Bee, November 15, 2013, available at <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/09/18/5744883/viewpoints-california-needs-to.html#storylink=cpy>.
- 19 Arnold Schwarzenegger, "Gov. Schwarzenegger Applauds Adoption of Common Core State Standards," August 2, 2010, available at [http://votesmart.org/public-statement/541830/#.UndKv\\_msiSo](http://votesmart.org/public-statement/541830/#.UndKv_msiSo).
- 20 Michael W. Kirst, "New Common Core standards are right for California," SFGate, August 18, 2013, available at <http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/New-Common-Core-standards-are-right-for-California-4739733.php>.