

## FACT SHEET

# Florida Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

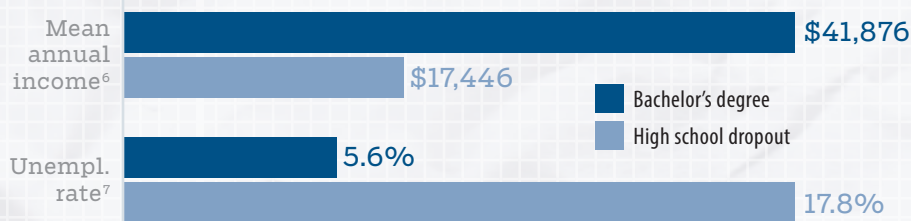
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the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

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

But currently, the system in Florida is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. Florida's high school graduation rate lags 9 percent behind the national average.<sup>1</sup> And even more alarmingly, Florida's college graduation rate among adults lags 32 percent behind America's highest-performing state.<sup>2</sup>

**In Florida, adults with a bachelor's degree earn more than twice as much as high school dropouts.**

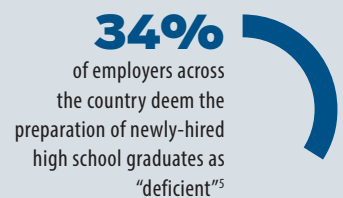
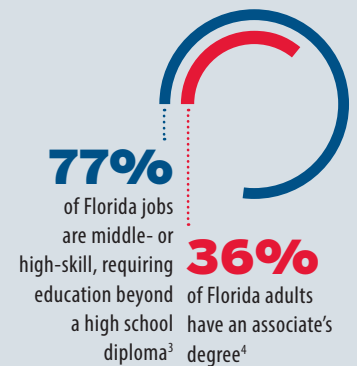


## If we want Florida's students to achieve, we need to expect more

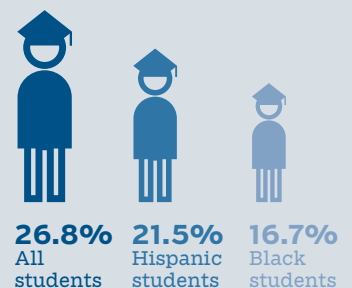
The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

Recognizing the dire need to advance student achievement, Florida's leaders worked with education officials from across the county to draft a new set of standards to promote critical thinking and problem solving. Florida's 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 Florida will be better prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to prosper in higher education and future careers.

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

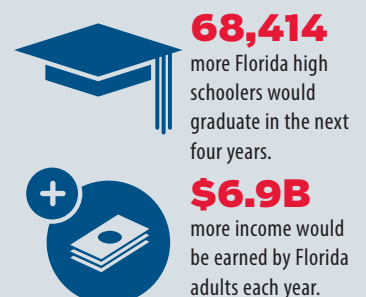


**College graduation rates among Florida adults<sup>8</sup>**



**Low standards are costing Florida**

If Florida's high school graduation rate matched the best performing state:<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 Florida, 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



#### 3RD GRADE: OLD FLORIDA TEST<sup>15</sup>

A group of friends will share 32 pieces of candy equally. Which expression can be used to find how many pieces of candy each friend will get?

- F)  $32 \div 4$       H)  $32 \div 4$   
G)  $32 - 4$       I)  $32 \times 4$



#### 3RD GRADE: COMMON CORE<sup>16</sup>

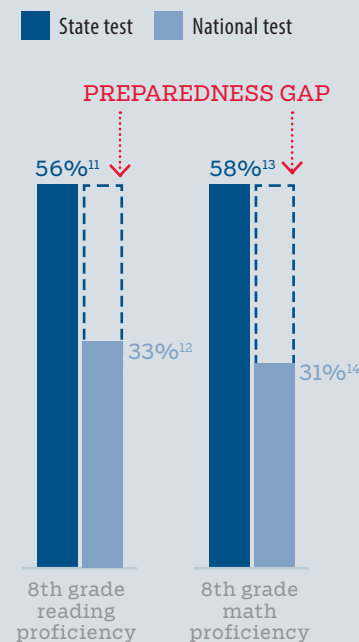
Click on all the equations that are true.

- $8 \times 9 = 81$   
  $54 \div 9 = 24 \div 6$   
  $7 \times 5 = 25$   
  $8 \times 3 = 4 \times 6$   
  $49 \div 7 = 56 \div 8$

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 Florida

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 Florida and across the country

## 77% OF TEACHERS

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



Gov. Rick Scott's declaration Monday that Florida should withdraw from a group of states designing tests for the new Common Core State Standards is a serious setback for education reform.

TAMPA BAY TIMES | 09/13/2013<sup>18</sup>



If state leaders don't like Common Core, they should embrace the challenge of raising their standards even higher. Common Core is merely the new floor of English and math requirements.

JEB BUSH<sup>19</sup>



Every American child should have access to clear, consistent K-12 academic standards -- with Common Core, they can.

FLORIDA PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION<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: Florida," available at [http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc\\_middleskills\\_florida.pdf](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc_middleskills_florida.pdf) (last accessed November 2013).
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S1501 (last accessed November 2013).
- 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.civicenterprises.net/MediaLibrary/Docs/across\\_the\\_great\\_divide.pdf](http://www.civicenterprises.net/MediaLibrary/Docs/across_the_great_divide.pdf).
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID B23006.
- 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>
- 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>.
- 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 "Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test 2.0 Mathematics Sample Questions, Grade 3," available at [http://fcatt.fldoe.org/fcat2/pdf/sample/1112/math/FL530619\\_Gr3\\_Math\\_TB\\_WT\\_r2g.pdf](http://fcatt.fldoe.org/fcat2/pdf/sample/1112/math/FL530619_Gr3_Math_TB_WT_r2g.pdf).
- 16 PARCC, "Grade 3 Mathematics (Fluency)," available at <http://parconline.org/samples/mathematics/grade-3-mathematics-fluency>.
- 17 Scholastic, "Primary Sources 2013 Preview: Florida," available at <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/2013preview/state-florida.htm> (last accessed November 2013).
- 18 Editorial Board, "Editorial: Florida Governor's backward step on Common Core school standards," Tampa Bay Times, September 23, 2013, available at <http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-governors-step-backward-on-school-standards/2143510>.
- 19 Jeb Bush, "State-Driven Common Core Is Least We Can Do To Accelerate Student Learning," September 30, 2013, available at <http://www.humanevents.com/2013/09/30/state-driven-common-core-is-least-we-can-do-to-accelerate-student-learning/>.
- 20 Florida PTA, "Common Core Standards," available at <http://www.floridapta.org/index.php/programs/ccssi>.