

FACT SHEET

Kentucky Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

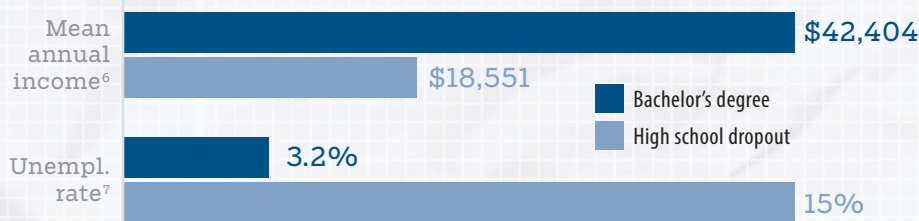
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the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

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

But currently, the system in Kentucky is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. 10,000 Kentucky students between the ages of 16 and 19 dropped out of high school in 2011.¹ And even more alarmingly, Kentucky's college graduation rate among adults lags 24 percent behind the national average.²

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

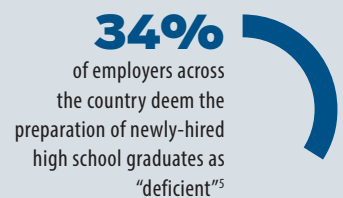
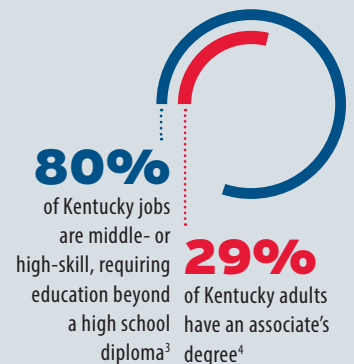


If we want Kentucky's students to achieve, we need to expect more

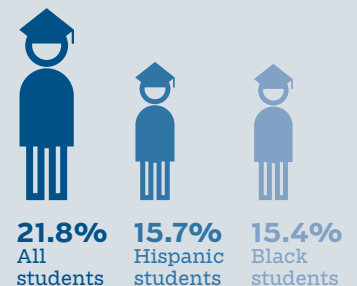
The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

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

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

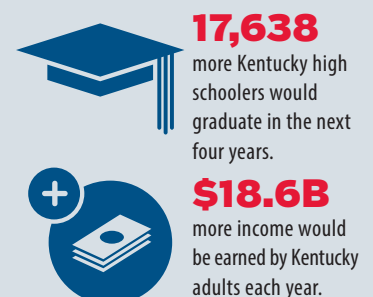


College graduation rates among Kentucky adults⁸



Low standards are costing Kentucky

If Kentucky's high school graduation rate matched the best performing state:¹⁰



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 Kentucky, 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



5TH GRADE: OLD KENTUCKY TEST¹⁵

After Stuart gets up in the morning, he takes 20 minutes to dress, 15 minutes to eat breakfast, and 10 minutes to walk to school. What time should Stuart get up to arrive at school at 7:25 A.M.?

- A) 6:15 A.M. C) 6:40 A.M.
B) 6:30 A.M. D) 8:10 A.M.



5TH GRADE: COMMON CORE¹⁶

A large tank at the state aquarium is shown. There are two rectangular prisms which form the large tank, one that is 96 cubic meters and one that is 36 cubic meters.

Part A: What is the volume of the large tank?

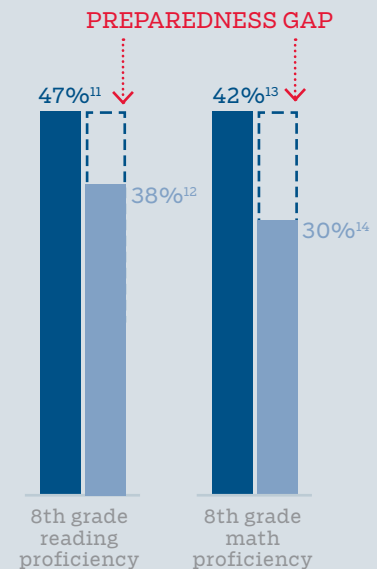
Part B: The scientists are creating a second tank that is also made from two rectangular prisms. The second tank has the same volume as the first tank. One prism is 18 cubic meters. What is the volume of the other rectangular prism?

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 Kentucky

While a majority of students are deemed proficient on state exams, performance on national exams tells a different story.

■ State test ■ National test



There is broad support for Common Core in Kentucky and across the country

78% OF TEACHERS

in Kentucky believe the Common Core standards will improve students' ability to think critically and use reasoning skills.¹⁷

Since implementation of the Common Core, Kentucky has seen improved college/career-readiness and graduation rates, lower remediation costs and more successful transitions to college and career. These are tangible facts, not opinions.

GOV. STEVEN L. BESHEAR (D-KY)¹⁸

Kentucky cannot afford to step away from the tougher academic standards and this opportunity to create a world-class education system. That is what Kentucky needs to give our students the strongest possible foundation for meeting the state's challenges and succeeding in life and work.

DAVE ADKISSON, PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE KY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE¹⁹

I have been in the PTA for 36 years and have found that our recent work connecting with parents about the Common Core State Standards (Common Core) has been the most rewarding project that I have ever been a part of.

SHARON WHITWORTH, 15TH DISTRICT PTA²⁰

Endnotes

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