

## FACT SHEET

# Michigan Common Core: Advancing Student Achievement

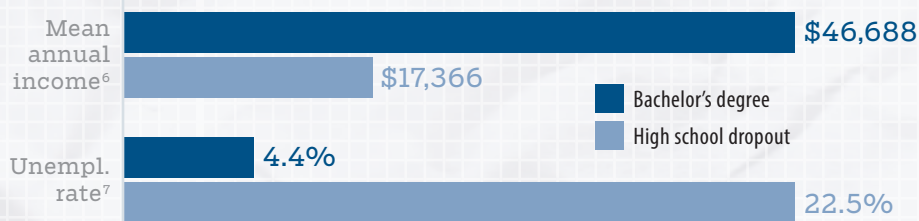
Across the country, too many of today's high school graduates are not ready for college or the workforce. According to a recent study, one out of four high school graduates require remedial education to enroll in college courses. The Common Core State Standards will help prepare students throughout the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

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

But currently, the system in Michigan is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. Michigan's high school graduation rate lags 15.9 percent behind the nation's highest-performing state.<sup>1</sup> And even more alarmingly, Michigan's college graduation rate among adults lags 34 percent behind America's highest-performing state.<sup>2</sup>

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

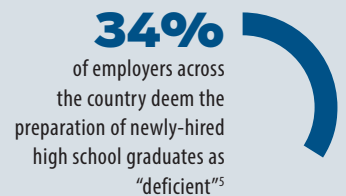
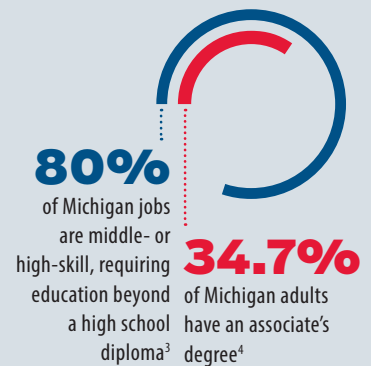


## If we want Michigan's students to achieve, we need to expect more

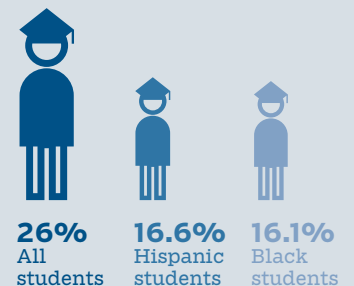
The Common Core State Standards, or CCSS, provide a new path for teachers to develop a more rigorous curriculum and raise the bar for students to become active learners and independent thinkers.

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

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

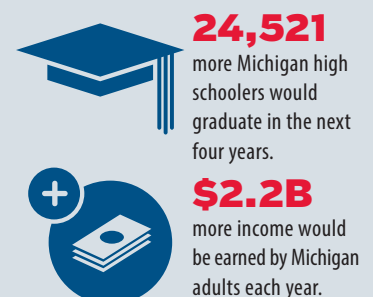


## College graduation rates among Michigan adults<sup>8</sup>



## Low standards are costing Michigan

If Michigan'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 Michigan, 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 MICHIGAN TEST<sup>15</sup>

Jenny's plant is 5 inches tall. If it grows 2 inches more, how tall will it be?

- A) 3 inches
- B) 7 inches
- C) 52 inches



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

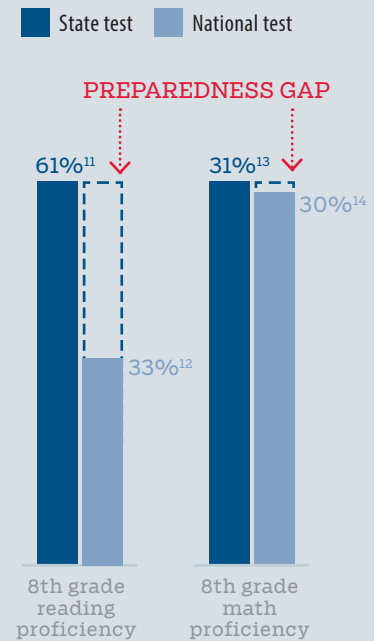
For a school field trip, 72 students will be traveling in 9 vans. Each van will hold an equal number of students. The equation shows a way to determine the number of students:  $72 \div 9 = ?$

The equation can be written using a different operation. Use the drop down menus to select the operation and numbers to complete the equation.

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 Michigan

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 Michigan and across the country

### 77% OF TEACHERS

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

“It makes sense to adopt uniform educational standards. It took longer than it should have, but Michigan education is poised to improve.

THE PORT HURON TIMES HERALD,  
OCTOBER 28, 2013<sup>18</sup>

“We support the continued implementation of the Common Core standards because they set high standards while maintaining local control over curriculum. We have great schools in West Michigan. Embracing Common Core standards will help continue this strong tradition.

SEN. ARLAN B. MEEKHOF (R-MI), REP. JOE HAVEMAN (R-MI), REP. AMANDA PRICE (R-MI), REP. ROGER VICTORY (R-MI), OCTOBER 28, 2013<sup>19</sup>

“The Standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our youth need for success in college and careers.

MICHIGAN PTA<sup>20</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 "Provisional Data File: SY2010-11 Four-Year Regulatory Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates," available at <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/state-2010-11-graduation-rate-data.pdf>.
- 2 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S15101 (last accessed November 2013).
- 3 National Skills Coalition, "Middle-Skill Jobs State-by-State: Michigan," available at [http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc\\_middleskills\\_michigan.pdf](http://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/resources/fact-sheets/state-fact-sheets/middle-skill/nsc_middleskills_michigan.pdf).
- 4 U.S. Census Bureau, "2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," Census ID S15101 (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 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 S15101.
- 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>.
- 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 Michigan Education Assessment Program, "Released Items Mathematics Grade 3," Fall 2005, available at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3math\\_Release\\_Bk\\_FINAL\\_149496\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3math_Release_Bk_FINAL_149496_7.pdf).
- 16 PARCC, "Grade 3 Vans for a Field Trip," available at [http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC\\_SampleItems\\_Mathematics\\_G3Vansforfieldtrip\\_081513\\_Final.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC_SampleItems_Mathematics_G3Vansforfieldtrip_081513_Final.pdf).
- 17 Scholastic, "Primary Sources 2013 Preview: Michigan," available at <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/2013preview/state-michigan.htm>.
- 18 Editorial Board, "Common Core can aid our schools," The Port Huron Times Herald, available at <http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20131028/OPINION01/310280022/Common-Core-can-aid-our-schools>.
- 19 Arlen B. Meekhof, Joe Haveman, et al., "Common Core standards will raise student achievement while maintaining local control, lawmakers say," MLive/Muskegon Chronicle, October 28, 2013, available at [http://www.mlive.com/opinion/muskegon/index.ssf/2013/10/viewpoint\\_common\\_core.html](http://www.mlive.com/opinion/muskegon/index.ssf/2013/10/viewpoint_common_core.html).
- 20 "Common Core State Standards Initiative," Michigan PTA, available at <http://www.michiganpta.org/thestandards.html>.