FACT SHEET
Georgia 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.

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

But currently, the system in Georgia is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. Georgia’s high school graduation rate lags 23.9 percent behind the nation’s highest-performing state. And even more alarmingly, Georgia’s college graduation rate among adults lags 28 percent behind America’s highest-performing state.

In Georgia, adults with a bachelor’s degree earn nearly three times more than high school dropouts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mean annual income</th>
<th>Bachelor’s degree</th>
<th>High school dropout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$48,704</td>
<td>$18,613</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1% 15.7%

Unempl. rate

If we want Georgia’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, Georgia’s leaders worked with education officials from across the county to draft a new set of standards to promote critical thinking and problem solving. Georgia 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. By raising expectations and providing support to help students reach them, children in Georgia will be better prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to prosper in higher education and future careers.

Georgia’s students are not prepared for future high-skilled jobs

35.3% of Georgia adults have an associate’s degree

34% of employers across the country deem the preparation of newly-hired high school graduates as “deficient”

College graduation rates among Georgia adults

28.2% All students
20.7% Black students
13.6% Hispanic students

Low standards are costing Georgia

If Georgia’s high school graduation rate matched the national average:

62,149 more Georgia high schoolers would graduate in the next four years.

$5B more income would be earned by Georgia adults each year.

Center for American Progress
Advancing Student Achievement in Georgia | 1
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 Georgia, 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 GEORGIA TEST**

Pleasant Hill Elementary School has an outdoor picnic space. This year, the principal wants to put a fence around the space. How many feet of fencing does the principal need?

- 20 ft
- 32 ft
- 56 ft
- 160 ft
- 320 ft

**3RD GRADE:**

**COMMON CORE**

Click on all the equations that are true.

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

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.

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

**81% OF TEACHERS**

in Georgia believe the Common Core standards will improve students’ ability to think critically and use reasoning skills.¹⁶

**Endnotes**

³ Ibid.
⁹ 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.
¹⁵ PARCC, “Grade 3 Mathematics (Fluency),” available at http://www2.ccsd.edu/schools/assessment/mathematics/grade-3-mathematics-fluency (last accessed November 2013).

**Advanced Student Achievement in Georgia**

The preparedness gap in Georgia

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State test</th>
<th>National test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8th grade reading proficiency</td>
<td>97%¹⁹</td>
<td>86%¹²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th grade math proficiency</td>
<td>32%¹¹</td>
<td>29%¹³</td>
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