



Achieve

All students should graduate from high school ready for college, careers and citizenship

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News Clips

Job Bush on Common Core

The *Orlando Sentinel* reports that new national standards known as "Common Core" will take effect in Florida in 2014. The standards, much tougher than what Florida has now, will make it easier to compare performance among states and nations. It's the logical next step in education reform and one former Florida Governor Jeb Bush strongly supports. [More...](#)

Ohio Teachers Excited about Common Core

Standards being piloted at Cincinnati Public Schools this fall will better prepare kids and "bring teaching back to life." Educators

Perspective Newsletter

July 2012

Commentary

Business Resources for a College- and Career-Ready America

The business community has a long history of supporting efforts to improve public education in America. Whether through public-private partnerships, direct engagement, or financial support, companies and organizations historically have made strategic investments in education because they know that the success of our nation's economy in the global marketplace depends on a quality workforce. Business leaders - both individually and collectively through coalitions and associations - can keep momentum going as states face competing priorities, limited budgets, and leadership turnover (see Achieve's [Taking Root](#) series for examples of how states' business communities have helped sustain education reforms in the past.)

The need for the business community to support education reform has reached a critical point. College and career readiness for all high school graduates was once just an idea championed by a small group of thought leaders. Now it is a major national education priority in each state, district, and school throughout the U.S. Forty-six states and DC have adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS); 45 states and DC are working to develop common, next generation assessments aligned to the Common Core; 26 states are leading a national effort to develop K-12 Next Generation Science Standards to revitalize science education across the U.S.; and nearly every state is re-evaluating their accountability systems, with direct implications for districts, schools and educators.

Going forward, as states move from adoption to implementation, dedicated advocates are needed to ensure states and leaders remain committed to the goal of college and career readiness for all and to the policies and initiatives designed to achieve that goal.

attended a week-long conference on the new Common Core Standards. Board president Eve Bolton, Superintendent Mary Ronan, teacher's union president Julie Sellers and the group of teachers updated the Board on what they learned at the conference, which was sponsored by the GE Foundation. [More...](#)

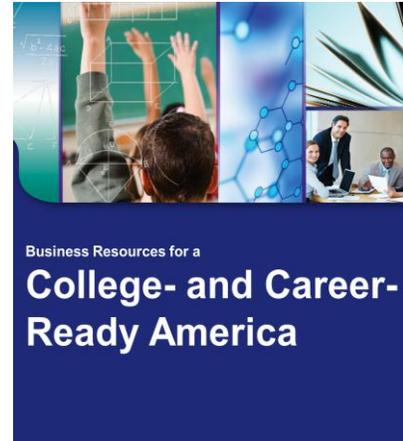
Common Core in Georgia

The Atlanta-Journal Constitution reports that state officials say this is a transition year for teachers and districts. Georgia adopted the Common Core State Standards in July 2010 and the new standards will be fully implemented by the 2014-15 school year. The state has been working to train teachers through online and in-person sessions, and Atlanta Public School has hired instructional coaches to provide on-site support for teachers in need. [More...](#)

New Standards for Columbia Public Schools

According to *Missourian*, Columbia Public Schools are in the process of developing and aligning their

To inform and rally more advocates in the business community, Achieve has developed the *Business Resources for a College- and Career-Ready America*. These modular resources are for business leaders to use as they engage their internal and external networks of colleagues, peers, employees, and employers around the college- and career-ready agenda. The resources specifically include:



- **Case-making facts and data** that outline the urgency for business engagement around education reform
- **Critical and relevant background** on college- and career-ready reforms, including the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards, and the U.S. education system
- **Actionable strategies for engaging** with employees, peers, CEOs and corporate executives, business associations, elected officials and the media in support of education reform

Over time, Achieve will add to these resources, with additional cards, PPT slides, templates and data for developing organization-specific fact sheets and messages, and examples from the field of how business leaders are currently supporting the college- and career-ready agenda.

Sign up [here](#) to receive hard copies of the cards and updates when new resources become available.

Achieve Releases Future Ready Student Voices Videos



Future Ready Student Voices
[FULL VIDEO]

curriculum to support the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Rock Bridge teacher Deborah Tucker says, "The Common Core standards will vertically align the district. This way...teachers will know more certainly what students have learned in the grade before. Any time teachers are on one page is a benefit to the students." Read the article and view the PPT presented to the Columbia Board of Education in June 2012. [More...](#)

The Crucial Need to Hold Students to a Higher Standard

An op-ed in *The Week* by former Tennessee Senator Bill Frist lays out the case for higher standards for all students - and the case for why the Common Core State Standards are a critical step forward. The Common Core State Standards are, he writes, "a state-inspired and carefully crafted set of standards - of goals, really - to equip our students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a global economy." [More...](#)

Tennessee Teachers Learn Common Core Standards

Achieve released a series of short videos capturing student voices on what high expectations, college and career readiness, and their future mean to them. The videos are available through Achieve's [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#) channels, as well as on Achieve's [website](#) and the Future Ready Project [website](#). The videos are intended to be another tool for advocates of the college- and career-ready agenda. Have ideas for other videos or want the video files? [Let us know!](#)

EQuIP Update

The first meeting of the Educators Evaluating Quality Instructional Products (EQuIP) collaborative in May 2012 brought together twenty states from the ADP Network to evaluate the quality of mathematics and ELA/literacy instructional materials, including their alignment to the CCSS using the Tri-State Rubrics: [Tri-State Quality Review Rubric for Mathematics](#) and [Tri-State Quality Review Rubric for ELA/Literacy](#). Click [here](#) to see a video that includes footage from the May 2012 convening and provides more information about the benefits of EQuIP and the rubrics. Future EQuIP meetings in Fall 2012 and Winter 2013 will continue this work as states use these measures of quality to improve instructional materials for CCSS implementation. For more information about EQuIP and to download the rubrics, please visit <http://www.achieve.org/EQuIP>.

Public Review of Draft PARCC Policy and Descriptors

PARCC is seeking feedback on two draft policies related to its next generation assessment system:

1. The PARCC policy for making College-Ready Determinations (CRDs) in English language arts/literacy and mathematics, and
2. Draft policy-level Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) and general content-level PLDs for the PARCC assessments.

The feedback deadline is September 21, 2012. [More...](#)

PARCC Educator Engagement Contract Awarded To National Math and Science Initiative

PARCC recently selected the [National Math and Science Initiative](#) (NMSI) and its [Laying the Foundation](#) program to lead the facilitation and management of the Educator Leader Cadres (ELCs). Through this effort, NMSI will support state efforts to build a growing network of K-12 educators and higher education faculty directly involved in CCSS and PARCC implementation efforts. As a result of the PARCC Educator

Knox County teachers are back to work next week, but thousands are in the classroom early to learn about the state's new "Common Core" standards. The state is phasing in Common Core, with K-2 already using the standards. Math implementation starts this coming school year, English and Language Arts follows in 2013. [More...](#)

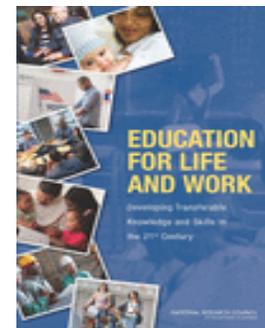
Leader Cadres, teachers will receive information and tools to support implementation of CCSS and PARCC through a practitioner's lens.

NMSI will host face-to-face meetings and webinars for the 600 state educational representatives who are part of the ELCs. The members of this community of practice develop expertise on the new standards and direct implementation of the CCSS in their respective states. NMSI also facilitates an open-source learning management system to host online training and lessons that will be open to all teachers and students in PARCC consortium states. [More...](#)

New Resources

Deeper Learning

The National Research Council released a report on deeper learning, "[Education for Life and Work: Developing Transferable Knowledge and Skills in the 21st Century](#)." It clarifies the meaning of the terms "21st century skills" and "deeper learning", examines evidence on links between these skills and positive adult outcomes, outlines teaching methods that support the development of transferable knowledge and skills, and recommends future steps for policy and research.



Many Students Find Schoolwork Too Easy

The Center for American Progress released a new [state-by-state analysis](#) of student surveys that looks at the rigor of school work and how much students are engaged in an education that will prepare them for college and the modern workplace. Among the findings, many schools are not challenging students and large percentages of students report that their school work is "too easy; many students are not engaged in rigorous learning activities; students don't have access to key science and technology learning opportunities; too many students don't understand their teachers' questions and report that they are not learning during class; and students from disadvantaged backgrounds are less likely to have access to more rigorous learning opportunities. The researchers recommend that policymakers must continue to push for higher, more challenging standards, students need more rigorous learning opportunities, our nation needs to figure out ways to provide all students with the education that they deserve, and researchers and educators should continue to develop student surveys



Do Schools Challenge Our Students?

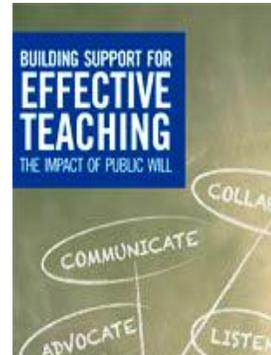
What Student Surveys Tell Us About the State of Education in the United States

Ulrich Bauer and Lindsay Roseenthal July 16, 2012

www.americanprogress.org

Empowering Communities to Support Effective Teaching

United Way Worldwide released a report focused on a crucial question: how can our communities empower those who educate our children? "[Building Support for Effective Teaching: The Impact of Public Will](#)" examines efforts designed to cut the number of high-school dropouts and help all students graduate college and career ready. United Way chose 14 of its affiliates in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee to identify strategies to support and enhance effective teaching at every grade level. The report shares the work of these communities: how they built coalitions of diverse education stakeholders (and why diverse coalitions matter); how they crafted advocacy plans and strategies to take the conversation beyond their local communities; and how they mobilized others to advocate for bold reform. These lessons can be adopted by other communities to help prepare their students for a lifetime of success.



KIDS COUNT

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 23rd [KIDS COUNT Data Book](#) shows both promising progress and discouraging setbacks for the nation's children: While their academic achievement and health improved in most states, their economic well-being continued to decline. This year, the *Data Book* uses a broader index of 16 indicators of child well-being, organized into four categories: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community. The *Data Book* highlights major disparities among U.S. children along racial and ethnic lines. Even as children of color grow in numbers, representing the majority of U.S. births, they continue to lag behind their white counterparts by almost every measure. While 58 percent of white fourth-graders had yet to achieve reading proficiency in 2011, more than 80 percent of their Latino, African-American and American Indian classmates lagged in this area.



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Career Opportunities

Achieve has several career opportunities available. For more, go to www.achieve.org/careers.

Perspective is sent to you by Achieve, an independent, bipartisan, non-profit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C. that helps states raise academic standards and graduation requirements, improve assessments and strengthen accountability. Please feel free to circulate this e-newsletter to your colleagues.

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