



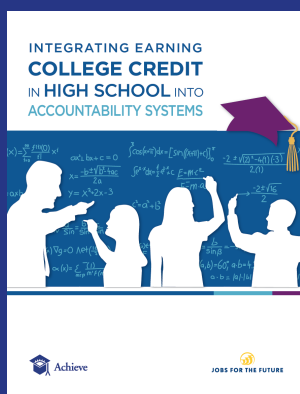
September 2015

Dear Reader,

There are a number of opportunities states can offer students to ensure their college and career readiness upon high school graduation. One option that has proven effective in increasing postsecondary education preparedness, enrollment, and success is the opportunity for students to earn college credit while in high school through programs such as AP, IB, and dual enrollment, including early college models. A new resource featured in this issue of *Perspective* explores ways that states can increase students' successful participation in this approach, including through the use of appropriate performance metrics in the state's accountability system.

Mike Cohen, President, Achieve

Integrating Earning College Credit in High School into Accountability Systems



There is clear evidence that earning college credit prior to postsecondary enrollment is a predictor of college success. Achieve partnered with Jobs for the Future to release a new report, "[Integrating Earning College Credit in High School into Accountability Systems](#)," which explores the different models used to earn college credit in high school, examines the research that shows the positive relationship between these experiences and

college success, and encourages states to incorporate measures related to earning college credit while in high school into their accountability systems.

New EQuIP Call to Action Seeks High-Quality High School Materials Aligned to the Common Core



To build upon the success of the K-8 Call to Action, Achieve announced the launch of a new [Call to Action for high school materials](#). Educators and developers can submit high-quality units aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that address specific 9-12 high priority standards that were

identified by a panel of content experts and educators. Achieve launched this effort with Student Achievement Partners to strengthen resources to meet teachers' needs to implement the CCSS.

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Student Assessment Inventory for School Districts: Three New Resources



Achieve recently released three new resources to support districts using the [Student Assessment Inventory Tool](#) to take stock of their required assessments:

- [A paper focusing on considerations for special education assessment systems](#)
- A paper looking at [considerations for assessing English Language Learner students](#), and
- [Additional guidance for districts.](#)

In case you missed our special edition of *Perspective* that took a look at the entire suite of Assessment Inventory Tool resources, check it out [here](#).

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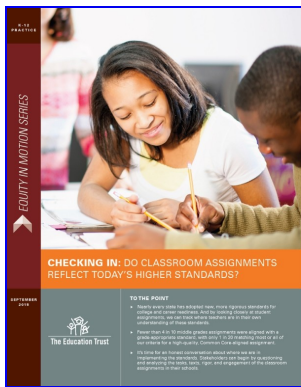


Change the Equation released a redesigned version of the [Vital Signs interactive tool](#), which provides easily-shared critical data on the state of STEM education across the country. Visit the site to download charts and graphics, compare state and national progress, and examine the challenges in STEM education.

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Checking In: Do Classroom Assignments Reflect Today's Higher Standards?

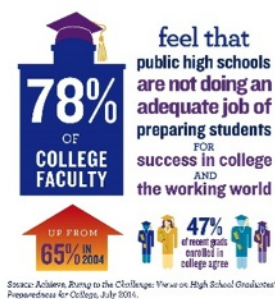


A new report from the Education Trust examined more than 1,500 English Language Arts assignments given to middle school students and found only five percent of assignments fell into the "high" range of a framework measuring Common Core alignment, text centrality, cognitive challenge, and student motivation and engagement. The results of this report underscore teachers' need for access to quality materials, professional development, and the time they need to adjust their teaching to meet the rigor of higher expectations.

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Webinar Recording: College Faculty and Employers Weigh In - Are Students Ready for College and Career?

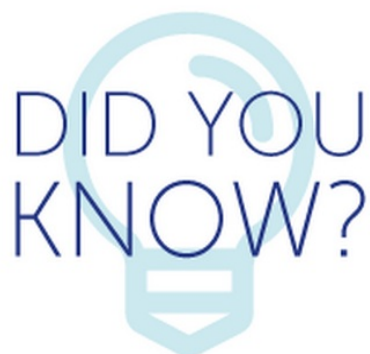


A webinar on June 25 unpacked the results from the latest iteration of Achieve's survey on student preparedness for college and career. This time, college faculty and employers weighed in. Geoff Garin, President of Hart Research Associates and Robert Blizzard, Partner with Public Opinion Strategies shared findings from the nationwide poll of employers and college faculty from both two- and four-year colleges on their perception of students' readiness to tackle post-secondary

coursework. Check out the PowerPoint and webinar recording [here](#).

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According to Achieve's [recent survey](#) of employers and college faculty,

61%

of employers request or require the recent high school grads they hire to get additional education or training to make up for gaps in their preparation.

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



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