



QUICK FACTS

New York State Common Core Standards

March 2014

The American Association of University Women believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society. AAUW is committed to ensuring strong academic principles and bias-free public education that closes the achievement gap for all children.

AAUW strongly supports high-quality public education for all students. All students should graduate high school ready to succeed in their next steps. AAUW supports states' voluntary adoption of Common Core standards. If states choose not to adopt these official standards, AAUW urges them to adopt similarly robust and comprehensive standards. All students deserve a world-class education, no matter where they live.

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

But currently, the system in New York State is failing to help all students achieve their full potential. New York State's high school graduation rate [lags](#) 12.5 percent behind the nation's highest-performing state. Even more alarmingly, New York State's college graduation rate among adults [lags](#) 15 percent behind America's highest-performing state.

New York State's students are not prepared for future high-skilled jobs

- 79% of New York State jobs [are](#) middle- or high-skill, requiring education beyond a high school diploma.
- 42% of New York State adults [have](#) an associate's degree or higher.

If we want New York State'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, New York State's leaders worked with education officials from across the country drafted a new set of standards to promote critical thinking and problem solving. New York State 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

In New York State, adults with a bachelor's degree earn more than twice as much as high school dropouts

Median annual earnings

Bachelor's: \$52,278
HS dropout: \$19,401

Unemployment rate

Bachelor's: 4.7%
HS dropout: 13.7%

Poverty rate

Bachelor's: 5.2%
High school dropout: 29%

College graduation rates among New York State adults

All students: 33.4%
Black students: 21.5%

reading. By raising expectations and providing support to help students reach them, children in New York State will be better prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to prosper in higher education and future careers.

Low standards are costing students and New York State money

If New York State's high school graduation rate matched the national average, per 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:

- 13,815 more New York State high schoolers would graduate in the next four years
- \$1.8 billion more income would be earned by New York State adults each year

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 New York State, 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.

The preparedness gap in New York State

While a majority of students are deemed proficient on state exams, 8th grader performance on national exams tells a different story.

Reading proficiency

- State test: [51%](#)
- National test: [35%](#)

Math proficiency

- State test: [62%](#)
- National test: [32%](#)

How the Common Core can create a higher standard for student achievement

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 use international benchmarks to help ensure our students are receiving the world-class education they deserve.

Next Steps

- Familiarize yourself and your branch with the New York State Common Core policy landscape. For example:
 - Governor Cuomo [considers](#) newly strengthened teacher evaluations to be one of his signature issues and has seemed unlikely to shift. However, in early April 2014 he [indicated](#) a willingness to *delay* Common Core's impact on teacher evaluations. The outcome of this struggle between Cuomo and especially the New York State United Teacher's Union remains in [development](#).
 - The State University of New York (SUNY) graduates around ¼ of NY's teacher workforce. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher has emphasized SUNY's strong [commitment](#) to Common Core. However, implementation concerns have been raised about possible student teacher placements [shortages](#) and [pressures](#) of Common Core certification requirements on current education students.
- Identify examples of Common Core implementation success stories developing within New York State schools and districts. The New York State [Boards of Cooperative Educational Services \(BOSCES\)](#) are likely a good starting point. Use positive examples to help to drive the momentum that is going to be necessary to push implementation ahead.
- Raise community awareness by planning a Common Core issue forum. This would be most impactful after the start of the 2014/15 school-year and before the November general election. Consult AAUW's Issue Forum Program-In-A-Box for [guidance](#).

Additional Resources

- American Association of University Women, [Position on No Child Left Behind/ Elementary and Secondary Education Act](http://www.aauw.org/resource/aauws-position-on-no-child-left-behind/), <http://www.aauw.org/resource/aauws-position-on-no-child-left-behind/>
- Common Core State Standards Initiative, [Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.corestandards.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions), <http://www.corestandards.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions>
- Thomas Fordham Institute, [Common Core in the Districts: An Early Look at Early Implementers](http://www.edexcellence.net/publications/common-core-in-the-districts), <http://www.edexcellence.net/publications/common-core-in-the-districts>
- [Scholastic](http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/ca-2.htm), [California Teachers Are Enthusiastic About the Implementation of the Common Core, Even as They Acknowledge Challenges Ahead](http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/ca-2.htm), <http://www.scholastic.com/primarysources/ca-2.htm>
- National Center for Literacy Education, [Remodeling Literacy Learning Together: Paths to Standards Implementation](http://www.literacyinlearningexchange.org/remodeling-together), <http://www.literacyinlearningexchange.org/remodeling-together>

There is broad support for Common Core in New York State and across the country

- 67% of teachers in New York State [believe](#) the Common Core standards will improve students' ability to think critically and use reasoning skills.
- "When you come in with a big change, there's normally fits and starts, and it's a little jerky, so that's to be expected ...but Common Core curriculum, nationwide that's where the country's [going](#), that's the state of the art." — Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY).
- "The new Common Core curriculum will [empower](#) students to achieve at higher levels in the years ahead." — Mayor Michael Bloomberg.
- "If the country retreats from the Common Core reforms, it will be [surrendering](#) the field to competitors that have already left it behind in math and science education, which are essential to participation in the 21st-century work force.— *The New York Times* Editorial Board