

COMMON CORE FACT SHEET

- **55 million** - the number of new job openings the economy will create over the next decade, notwithstanding economic and political shocks
- **65%** - the number of new jobs that will require some sort of postsecondary education or training. In 2010, that figure was 59 percent
- **72%** - number of jobs requiring a high-school education or less in 1973
- **8 out of 10** - number of the fastest-growing occupations — healthcare professional & technical, STEM, education, and community services — that will require high levels of postsecondary education
- **Only 18%** of 2013 high school graduates met ACT college readiness benchmarks in all four subjects (math, English, social science, science) in Tennessee. It was 26% nationally.
- **Only 29%** of Tennessee 2013 high school graduates met ACT college readiness benchmarks in Math.
- **Only 27%** of Tennessee 2013 high school graduates met ACT college readiness benchmarks in Science.
- **68.9%** of first time community college freshman required remedial/developmental coursework. (2012)
- In 2007, U.S. Chamber of Commerce gave Tennessee an “F” in “Truth in Advertising”, based on our inability to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge they need to compete in the modern workforce.
 - What we were saying: 90% of students are proficient in math.
 - Reality: **Less than 35% were actually proficient.**
- **Standards** are the knowledge and skills that students are expected to learn in each grade and subject.
- The Common Core State Standards are a set of higher expectations in math and English/language arts in K-12, designed to provide students the real-world skills needed to succeed in postsecondary and the workforce. Some examples:
 - **2nd Grade Math** - CCSS.Math.Content.2.NBT.A.2:
 - *Count within 1000; skip-count by 5s, 10s, and 100s*
 - **4th Grade Reading** - CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2:
 - *Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text*
- 2014-15 school year will see new (online) tests to measure student progress, called **PARCC** (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career)
 - Will **replace TCAP** in English/Language Arts and mathematics

- Why an authentic/new assessment?
 - Better measure student progress AND COLLEGE READINESS
 - Accurately measure whether students are gaining real-world skills and knowledge
 - Ensure measurement of knowledge instead of test-taking skills
 - Engage students in writing, recall, abstract thinking, and investigation
 - Old TCAP assessment is not connected to college or career readiness measures
 - ACT exam doesn't encourage students to take courses they need for college or career. ACT will still be used for college admissions and placement determination.
 - Neither TCAP nor ACT address non-traditional students
- Tennessee's public universities will use PARCC as an indicator of college-readiness (ACT will still be used for admissions and placement)
- **Teacher support:** Nationally, **77%** say standards will help students reason and think critically.
- **73%** of teachers say they are enthusiastic about its implementation
- Common Core is the culmination of what Higher Ed said it needs from K-12
- College- and career-ready standards:
 - Increase postsecondary preparedness
 - Reduce remediation rates
 - Ultimately improve college completion
- Critics claim:
 - Common Core is a federal mandate –
 - Wrong. It was led by the NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION and COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS. State-level policymakers have the discretion to join. The federal government was NOT involved in the development of standards.
 - Common Core is dumbing down existing state standards –
 - Just the opposite. They're building on the most advanced current thinking about preparing ALL students for success in college and careers. Studies show they are superior to standards currently in use in most states. They focus on problem solving, critical thinking, and collaborations – a culmination of what higher ed said was needed in K-12 preparation.
 - Parents and policymakers had no input –
 - They did, but it wasn't communicated well.
 - Common Core dictates the classroom curriculum –
 - Standards are not curriculum. They're a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what knowledge and skills help students succeed. Local

teachers, principals, superintendents and others decide HOW the standards are met.

- The standards will lead to more testing –
 - Not more, but different and better. CCSS should drive down costs in the long run as publishers can focus on more creativity and tools for teachers.
- Collecting student data is an invasion of privacy –
 - No additional data different than what was shared before will be collected. Federal law prohibits the federal government from collecting any personally identifiable data.