How state action on the common core could impact college access and attainment

Christine Tell
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The Expectations Gap . . .

Historically, we haven’t expected all students to graduate from high school college- and career-ready.

- Few states required advanced math for graduation.
- State tests measured relatively low-level knowledge and skills.
- High school accountability rarely focused on graduation rates or on college- and work-readiness.
States have taken actions in recent years that provide a foundation for the adoption of the Common Core.
Governors and leaders from K-12, postsecondary, and business in the 35 American Diploma Project (ADP) Network states have made a commitment to:

- Align high school standards with the demands of college and careers.
- Require students to take a college- and career-ready curriculum to earn a high school diploma.
- Build college-and career-ready measures into statewide high school assessment systems.
- Develop reporting and accountability systems that promote college and career readiness.
The ADP Network formed in 2005 with 13 states now includes 35 states, educating nearly 85 percent of students nationally.
More than 23 states have taken action to align their high school standards with the demands of college and careers so that students can:

- Enter into credit-bearing course work in two- or four-year colleges, without the need for remediation and with a strong chance for earning credit toward their program or degree; and

- Gain entry-level positions in quality career pathways, which often require further education and training.
23+ states have aligned standards

Aligned standards formally verified by Achieve
Aligned standards not verified by Achieve

*Only math standards aligned
Since 2005, states have increased graduation requirements

Ensuring that all high school graduates take rigorous coursework particularly in mathematics.
State Mathematics Course-Taking Requirements 2009
As states adopt the common core K-12 and higher education will have the opportunity to . . .

- **Send a Common Message about College Preparation** that will help students (and their parents and teachers) understand what is expected and allow for more self-directed learning

- **Identify** how Common Core aligns with first year college course expectations in order to better focus instruction and assessment on attainment
- **Assess** students’ progress toward college readiness in time to make a difference

- **Collect data** on student progress through the education pipeline and college access and attainment

- **Train** teachers, faculty and other education professionals in K12 and higher education to focus on student proficiency and attainment
About Achieve

Bipartisan, non-profit organization created by the nation’s governors and business leaders in 1996.

Board consists of 3 Democratic governors, 3 Republican governors and 6 CEOs, and is co-chaired by Gov. Phil Bredesen (D-TN) and Craig Barrett, Former CEO/Chairman of the Board of Intel.

Early research through American Diploma Project (ADP) identified “must-have” knowledge and skills graduates will need to be successful in college and careers.

Research resulted in the development of ADP Benchmarks in math and English.

Now working with 35 states in ADP Network to design and implement policies that will prepare all young people for postsecondary education, careers, and citizenship.