States Are Strengthening Standards to Improve Preparedness

Forty-six states and the District of Columbia have adopted a common, state-created set of world-class standards for college and career readiness in English language arts and math.

Texas and three remaining states have their own college- and career-readiness standards.

More Accurate Measures of Student Proficiency Are Needed

Texas’s Eighth-Grade Proficiency as Measured by State Test vs. the Nation’s Report Card (NAEP) for SY 2011–12

Nationally, the average gaps between state- and NAEP-reported reading and math scores are 40 percentage points and 32 percentage points, respectively.

States Are Working to Create New and Better Assessments

Forty-two states participate in one of two consortia to develop Common Core State Standards–aligned next-generation assessments, which are scheduled to be administered during SY 2014–15. Texas does not participate in either of these consortia.

Excellent Teacher Training Is Critical to Increased Student Achievement

To promote higher levels of student achievement, 27 states have committed to educating and preparing better teachers and administrators through teacher licensing, program accreditation, and effective data use policies. Texas has not joined this coalition of states focusing on educator preparation and entry into the profession.

Connecting Technology to Schools and Students

Having access to a broadband network—connectivity—is crucial to taking advantage of the world of technology and what it offers in the classroom. Texas does have a statewide broadband network for its schools.

The use of technology lends flexibility to schools and classrooms. Texas does allow additional flexibility by permitting schools to use funding for instructional materials and digital resources.

The Next Frontier: Deepen and Personalize Learning

Today’s modern economy requires more than basic content knowledge. Leading states are building an engaging and personalized education process to achieve deeper learning outcomes of core content knowledge, creative and critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

The following schools in Texas are part of a deeper learning network and represent deeper learning outcomes of core content knowledge, creative and critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Commitment Is Paying Off, But Struggling Schools Remain

About 10% of all high schools still produce 40%- of the nation’s dropouts. In these “dropout factories,” 60% or fewer of freshmen are promoted to senior year on time. Nationally, students of color and Native students are nearly four times more likely than their white peers to be enrolled in a dropout factory. Improving these schools must remain a national priority.

Texas High Schools

Federally Reported High Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>American Indian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation (Avg.)</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

... and Even Fewer Are Graduating from College

Four-Year College Graduation Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>American Indian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Better Preparation Is Key for Success in College and a Career

Literacy Is an Underlying Problem for Many Students

School Year (SY) 2010–11 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Reading Scores for Texas Eighth Graders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Students</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Low Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Insufficient or no data was reported for other subgroups


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