

HIGHER ED

for HIGHER STANDARDS

UPDATE

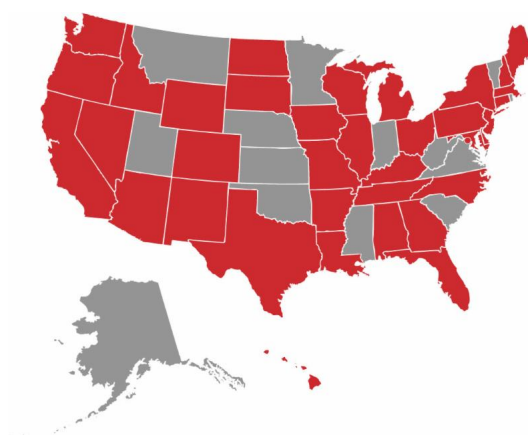


September 2014

A Movement Begins

Higher Ed for Higher Standards launched earlier this summer with more than 200 higher education leaders from 33 states pledging their commitment to the importance of rigorous K-12 standards to enable postsecondary success. Now, the coalition includes [250 higher ed leaders representing 37 states](#), and has organizational [endorsements](#) from AAC&U, AASCU, AAU, ACE, AGB, APLU, CCA, NASH, and SHEEO.

Our goal is to significantly increase the size of the coalition this year and, through community conversations, op-eds, and meetings with state leaders, let people know that having high standards for K-12 students makes a difference for higher education, too. [Join us!](#)



States Step Up

California's higher education leadership is "walking the talk"—all four state higher education systems have come together to urge the state board of education to continue moving forward with implementation of the Common Core State Standards in K-12 schools. See their statement of support [here](#). They also have aligned their admissions standards to the Common Core State Standards and plan to use the new Smarter Balanced assessments that students will take in high school as an indicator of readiness for credit-bearing college courses.

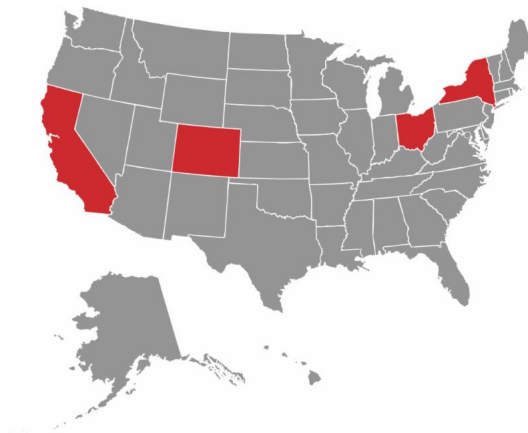
Last week, education deans at universities across Ohio [sent a letter](#) to state legislators urging them to stay the course with high standards and not to pass legislation that would roll back the standards.

This summer, **Colorado's Commission on Higher Education** [approved a resolution](#) in support of its state's efforts to set college- and career-ready standards for K-12 students.

The **State University of New York's (SUNY) Board of Trustees** also [approved a resolution](#) in support of Common Core. Every campus president from SUNY's two- and four-year institutions has signed on as a supporter of Higher Ed for Higher Standards, as well.

Higher Ed for Higher Standards is encouraging its supporters in every state to take similar actions.

How are you supporting higher standards in your state? [Share the news](#) with us, and we'll be happy to spread the word.



Meeting the Challenge of the Common Core

The Common Core doesn't impact just K-12. The point of the Common Core, and other efforts to raise K-12 standards, is to enable students to successfully graduate from high school, fully prepared for the academic demands they will find in college. [A report](#) released this summer by the New America Foundation found that higher education needs to get our own house in order if we're going to realize the promise of these new standards. Higher education needs to meet K-12 in the middle and be willing to change some ways of assessing, teaching, and learning so that students who graduate from high school in Common Core states aren't stymied by misaligned systems.



Most States Sticking with High Standards

There was a noticeable increase in the buzz about the Common Core this summer. As the midterm elections approach, it seems like every post-primary analysis brings up the Common Core. Despite the chatter, the vast majority of states—over 40—remain committed to the standards. Legislative attempts to roll back the Common Core failed in most states, and while several states did pass legislation requiring changes to their standards, most ended up with expectations similar to the Common Core even if they are calling them something different. An overview of where things currently stand state by state can be found [here](#). Track legislation in your state [here](#).



From higher education's perspective, what matters is that the standards reflect the knowledge and skills incoming students need to succeed. That is our message from higher education to our communities—student success in college and in life demands that we teach our students to consistently high standards.

Contact: info@higheredforhigherstandards.org

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