

# HIGHER ED

for HIGHER STANDARDS



## UPDATE

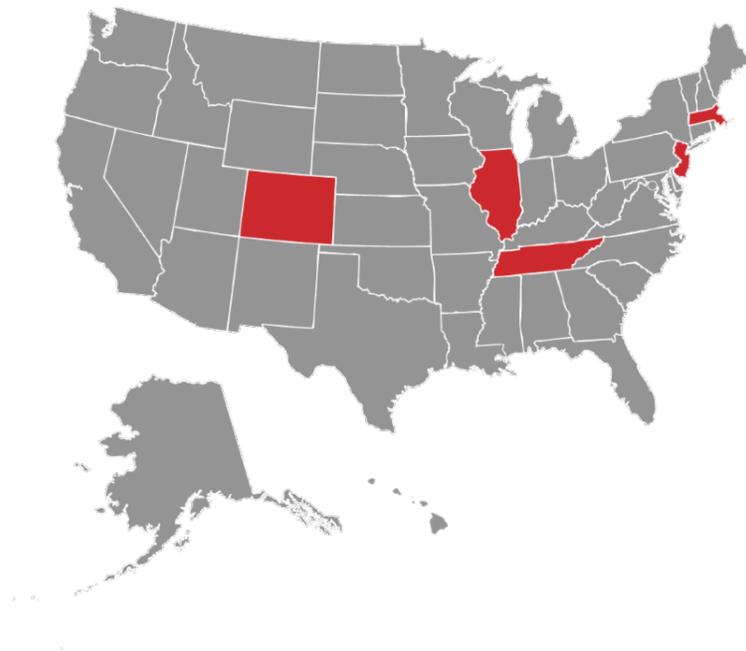
March 2015

### COALITION UPDATE

## Are colleges missing an opportunity?

A recent [Politico article](#) emphasized the important opportunity facing higher education in leveraging the new college- and career-ready standards being implemented around the country. While the article raised concerns that too few higher ed institutions have formally adopted policies to align with the new K-12 standards, Higher Ed for Higher Standards was singled out as evidence of a growing commitment by college presidents and system leaders to these higher expectations.

### SPOTLIGHT ON CO, IL, MA, NJ, AND TN



Higher Ed in Four States Endorses PARCC

Higher ed systems and institutions in Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New Jersey all recently announced their intent to use the newly implemented PARCC assessments as a formal indicator of college readiness. Systems in Washington State and West Virginia have agreed to something similar with the Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Colorado's Adams State University and Aims Community College recently announced that they will consider PARCC scores for student placement into entry-level courses. Linking the PARCC test results with higher education paths will save students money in remediation courses, reduce unnecessary testing, and reflect a "closer correlation between what students learn in high school and in college," according to the Colorado Department of Education. Learn more about how these institutions plan to use the scores from [Education Week](#) and the [Colorado Springs Gazette](#).

The Illinois Council of Community College Presidents adopted a PARCC acceptance policy detailing how they will use PARCC scores to exempt students from remedial courses. Students scoring a 4 or 5 on the PARCC assessments will meet the minimum pre-requisites for placement into credit-bearing math and English Language Arts courses.

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, The University of Massachusetts, Massachusetts State Universities, and Massachusetts Community Colleges have [issued a statement](#) in support of the PARCC assessment, detailing their involvement in shaping the test and their hope that it will be a better measure of college readiness than the old Massachusetts state tests, which were considered some of the best in the country.

Presidents of the 19 community colleges in New Jersey anticipate considering PARCC scores as a factor in student placement beginning in 2016, according to an [article from NJ.com](#).

## Tennessee Leaders Continue to Speak Out

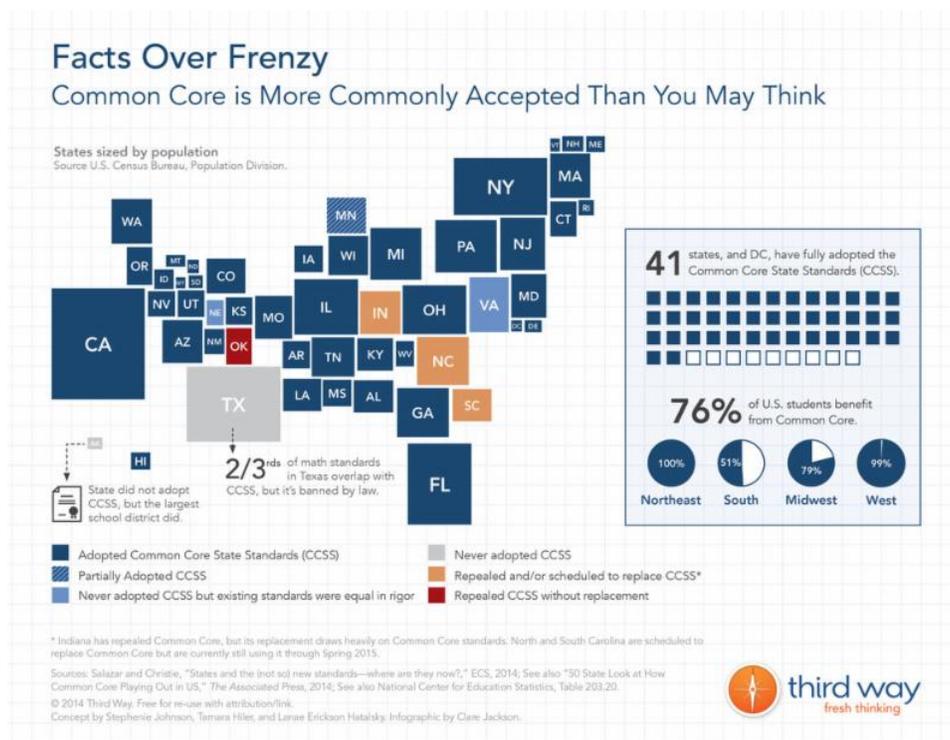
Community college presidents continue to vocalize their support of continued implementation of higher standards through local op-eds in [The Lebanon Democrat](#) and [The Jackson Sun](#). In both pieces, these leaders highlight the persistent problem of students arriving on campus without adequate preparation and the impact increased college readiness will have for degree completion. Tennessee has been recognized for "having the nation's highest gains in reading and math scores" since its adoption of higher standards, and these presidents do not wish to revert back to lower expectations for students.

# Illinois: PARCC Important for K-12 and Higher Ed

The Illinois' State Superintendent of Education and the Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education wrote an op-ed in [The Southern Illinoisan](#) about the importance of the PARCC assessment in determining whether students are ready for college and careers. They wrote, "Rather than just asking students to select the correct answer and fill in the bubble of a multiple-choice test, the PARCC exam pushes students to apply their knowledge, thus better preparing them for higher education and a career. All students deserve the opportunity to demonstrate what they know and see how knowledge is applied to real-life situations."

## Infographic: Facts Over Frenzy on the Common Core

As shown below, Common Core is in wide use and "here to stay," as 41 states and DC have fully adopted it, and 86 percent of U.S. students are in Common Core classrooms, including 100 percent in the northeast and 99 percent in the west. See the full [infographic from think tank Third Way](#).



## About Higher Ed for Higher Standards

Higher Ed for Higher Standards is a coalition of [higher education leaders](#) that strives to ensure that Americans realize the importance of higher K-12 standards for higher education and student

success after high school. [Join us!](#)

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