



STEP UP TO COLLEGE STEP INTO A CAREER

Colorado | Common Core

WHAT IS THE COMMON CORE?

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a state-led effort to establish a single set of clear educational standards for English language arts and mathematics that states can share and voluntarily adopt. These standards are designed to ensure that students graduate from high school prepared for college, work, and success in the global economy.

WHY ARE STANDARDS NEEDED?

62%
of Colorado's Latino adults lack a postsecondary degree and do not qualify for 73% of estimated job openings

Standards, the backbone of the education system, tell us what children should know and be able to do in each grade and subject. Educators align materials, tests and teaching strategies to meet those standards. With defined standards, parents and caregivers can know how their children are doing and how best to help them at home. Standards also ensure that our children develop the skills they need at each grade level that will prepare them to pursue opportunities in college or the workforce.

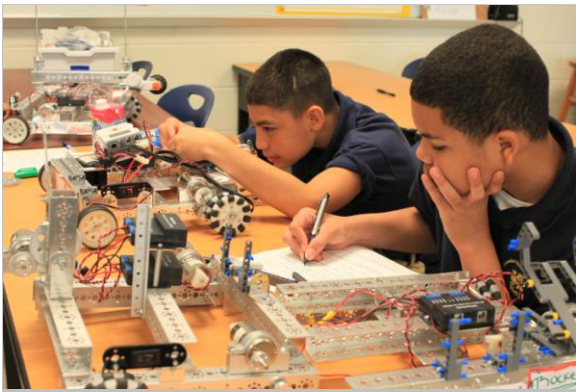
HOW CAN WE HELP ENSURE COMMON CORE'S SUCCESS?

- **Accountability is essential.** We must be able to measure how schools are effectively delivering the Common Core State Standards and how well students are learning.
- **Parental engagement is critical.** We can ensure parents are successful partners in their children's learning by providing them with information and tools.
- **Resources are vital.** In providing the necessary resources for training and materials, we can support the successful implementation of standards and shift in classroom practice.
- **The business community must help.** By supporting clearer and higher standards, we are strengthening the education-to-workforce pipeline.

LATINO STUDENTS IN COLORADO*

- Colorado has the **8th largest Hispanic** population
- Hispanics **composed 32% of all public school enrollments** in Colorado in 2011–2012
- English and math proficiency levels are low among Latino children. In 2013, **only 19% of fourth graders and eighth graders, respectively, were proficient in reading and in math**
- English language learners (ELLs) make up 12% of Colorado's public schools and graduate at a rate of 53%. In 2013, **only 8% of fourth graders and 3% of eighth graders, respectively, were at or above proficiency levels in reading**
- Colorado's **4-year high school graduation rate among Latinos is at a low of 65%** compared to the state graduation rate of 77%
- The **dropout rate among Hispanic students stands at a high of 4%**, compared to the 2.5% state dropout rate
- In October 2012, Hispanics comprised **15% of all enrollments in degree granting institutions** and the class of 2010-11 **graduated from college at a rate of 42%**
- In Colorado, there is a wide degree attainment gap between Latinos and other racial groups. **18% of Latino adults have an associate degree or higher** compared to 44% of all Colorado adults





HOW WILL THE COMMON CORE BENEFIT LATINO STUDENTS?

- The CCSS **help** to ensure that all students, regardless of ZIP code, income, race, or ethnicity, will be taught to and held to the same high standards that are aligned to college and work expectations.
- The CCSS **guarantee** that all students have access to high-quality educational content, supports, and opportunities that research has demonstrated are essential to postsecondary success.
- The CCSS **emphasize** analytical and critical-thinking skills that take learning beyond the classroom, connecting curricula to the real world.
- The CCSS **allow** parents and caregivers to more effectively assess their child's progress and compare their child's education with the education of children in other communities and states.
- **Implementation** of the CCSS requires states to adopt high-quality assessments that can accurately and reliably measure each student's progress.

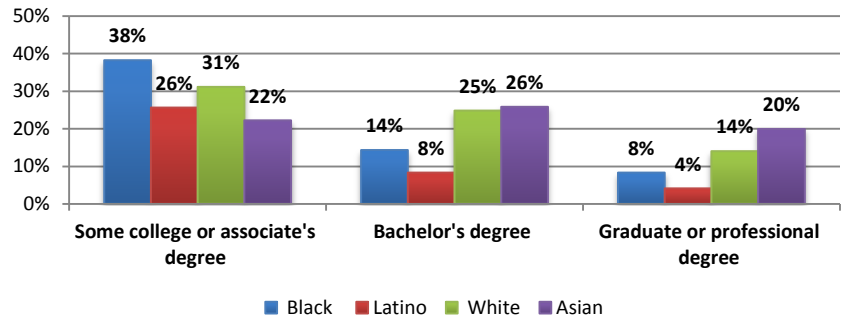
*Sources | Latino Students in Colorado:

Ensuring America's Future By Increasing Latino College Completion, Excelencia in Education; *Colorado State Snapshot*, ED Data Express, Ed.gov; *Reading and Mathematics 2013 State Snapshot Report*, The Nations Report Card, National Center for Education Statistics, NCES; *2012-2013 Colorado Graduation Trends*, Colorado Department of Education; *2012-2013 Colorado Dropout Statistics*, Colorado Department of Education; *Digest of Education Statistics 2013*, NCES

WHY DO WE NEED THE COMMON CORE?

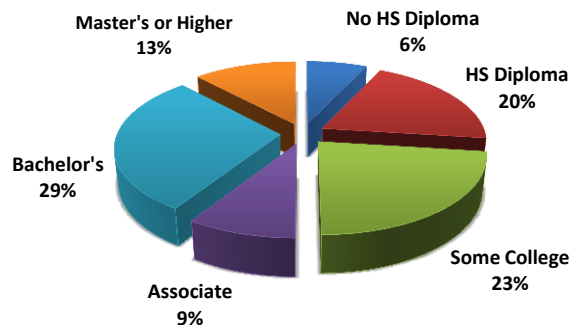
Increasing access to high-quality educational opportunities and supporting pathways to completion are among the most significant challenges that Latinos face in education today.

- Degree attainment among Latino adults in Colorado is inadequate. On average, **13% of Latino adults have postsecondary degrees**:



Source: 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, American Factfinder, US Census Bureau

- Yet **74% of Colorado's jobs in 2020** will require some sort of postsecondary credential:



Source: *Recovery: Job Growth And Education Requirements Through 2020*, Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University, 2013

CALL TO ACTION

Increasing the educational achievements of Latino children is a national imperative. Internationally benchmarked academic standards will raise the bar for all of our children and present a vital opportunity to improve Latino student outcomes.

We, as a community, need to step up and step in. Elected officials and community and business leaders, together with parents and educators, are critical to securing the success of our children. Let's continue to advocate for and support standards that will improve opportunities for our Latino youth and prepare them for the future. We all have a role to play to ensure that our Latino youth are equipped in the classroom today to handle the jobs of tomorrow.

Step Up to College, Step Into a Career

Raul Yzaguirre Building, 1126 16th Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036-4845 | www.nclr.org

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