

AAUW-TN Endorses Tennessee Academic Standards

Tennessee Academic Standards Are Working

According to the Nation's Report Card (National Assessment of Educational Progress), Tennessee is the fastest academically improving state in the country. From 2011 to 2013 in Tennessee, fourth-graders had moved from 46th to 37th in math and 41st to 31st in reading.¹ This accomplishment reflects a statewide effort to train over 70,000 teachers statewide and invest over \$500 million in this process.

Preparing Tennessee's Future Workforce & Attracting Employers

These standards are necessary for Tennessee students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate high school. Having a better educated workforce means that Tennessee can continue to be a destination state for national and international employers like Nissan and Volkswagen.

Tennessee Academic Standards clarify what students need to know and know how to do by the end of each grade. This skills-based approach, coupled with new teaching strategies, identifies what a student knows and what a student needs to improve on, which build the foundation for greater proficiency and prepare kids for college and careers.

Closing the Achievement Gap(s)

AAUW has a history of supporting closing the achievement gaps that all girls experience in math and science. Although girls are more likely to receive a college degree, they are also more likely to take remedial coursework on entering college and less likely to do well in math and the sciences. This trend holds true for students of color.

Recent analysis by the Education Trust of national tests (National Educational Assessment Program, NAEP) shows that, over the period of 2003 and 2013, Tennessee 4th grade math scores have improved on average by twelve points in the scale score and stand at 240. In comparison, on average, the test scores of African American students have experienced a thirteen point gain and stand at 221.²

Where Tennessee Stands Today

Tennessee must stay the course on its academic standards as there is still work to be done to improve academic achievement for its students.

- In 2013-2014, 60% of entering freshmen at public colleges and universities in Tennessee required some form of remediation.³
- In 2011, only 15% of Tennessee students graduated at levels that are college-ready.⁴
- Nationally, only 25% of students that take the ACT in preparation for college demonstrate that they have mastered skills in all subjects to be college-ready.⁵
- The truth of the matter is that most high school graduates have not yet acquired basic math and English language skills, let alone critical thinking skills, to prepare them for post-secondary education. This gap between education achievement and preparedness continues to fuel the professional education community and business community in Tennessee to remain committed to the Tennessee academic standards.

What You Can Do to Ensure that Tennessee Students Are College and Career Ready

1. Have both you and your organization endorse [Expect More, Achieve More](#)
2. Share this information and the [EMAM website](#) with individuals that have questions
3. Ask your State Representative and Senator to
 - **Stay on track and improve and enhance the existing Tennessee Standards.**
 - **Include the Governor's Review Process.**

We have come a long way to strengthen academic achievement in Tennessee. After all, this is about the future opportunity for our children and students, as well as the State of Tennessee.

4. Provide feedback to Governor Haslam on the state standards: [Tennessee Education Standards Review](#).

For additional information, please contact AAUW-TN at AAUWTNPolicy@gmail.com.

¹ Lauren Camera. *Tennessee's Common Core Backtrack Strands Teachers, Students*. The Tennessean. November 22, 2014

² State Academic Performance and Improvement Tool. The Education Trust.
http://www.edtrust.org/naep_state_scores/scatterplot#4;Math;All Students;TN

³ John Morgan, Joe DiPietro and Richard Rhoda. *Tennessee Higher Education Officials Endorse Common Core Standards*. Cleveland Daily Banner. May 2014.

http://www.clevelandbanner.com/view/full_story/24712023/article-Tennessee-higher-education-officials-endorse-the-Common-Core-Standards

⁴ ACT National and State Scores. 2011. Retrieved from: <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2011/states.html>

⁵ expectmoretn.org