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# COMMON CORE & SMARTER BALANCED

WHAT ARE THEY, WHY ARE WE USING THEM AND  
HOW DO THEY AFFECT MY STUDENT?



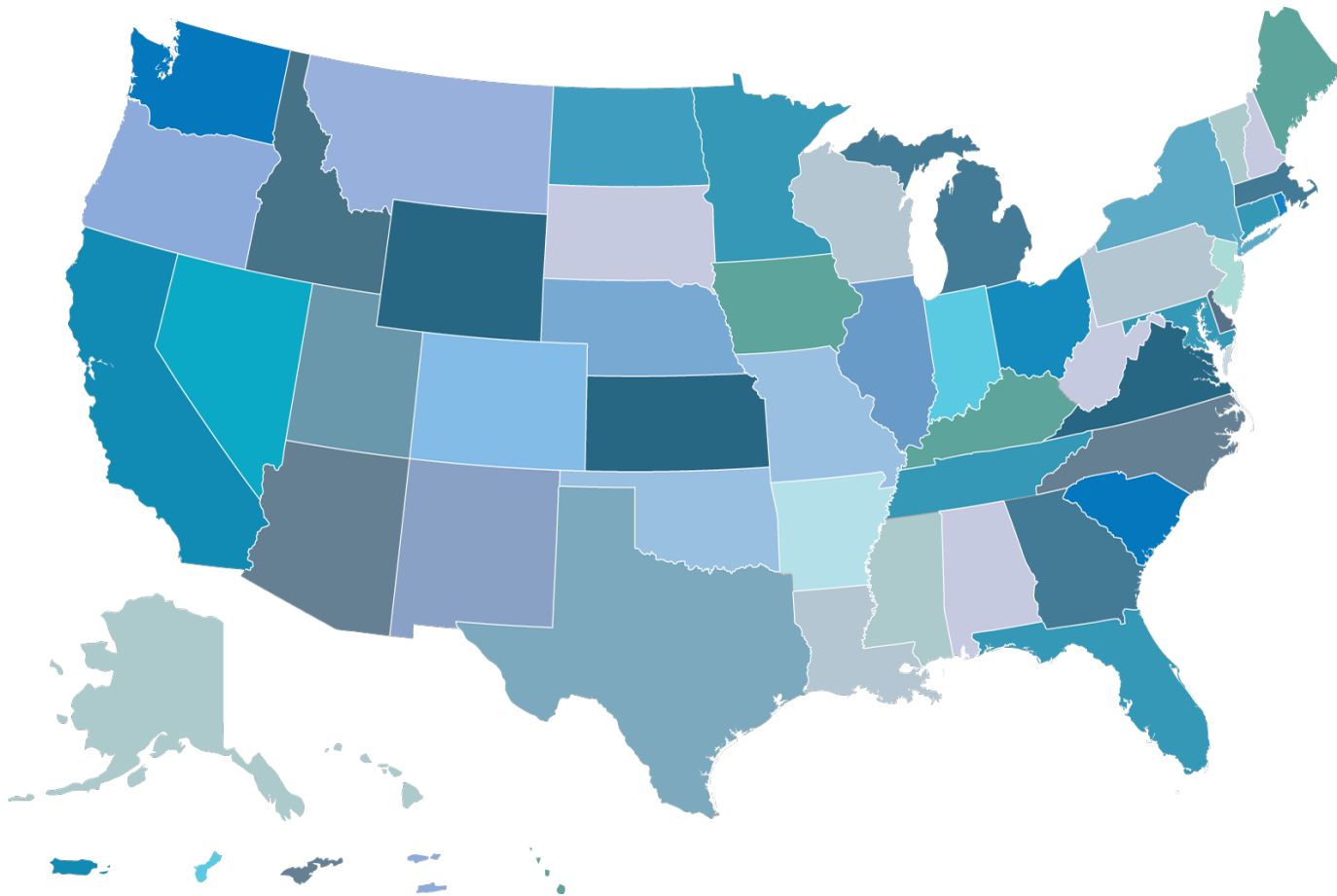
# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: A LITTLE HISTORY

1901: Oregon adopts its first educational standards.



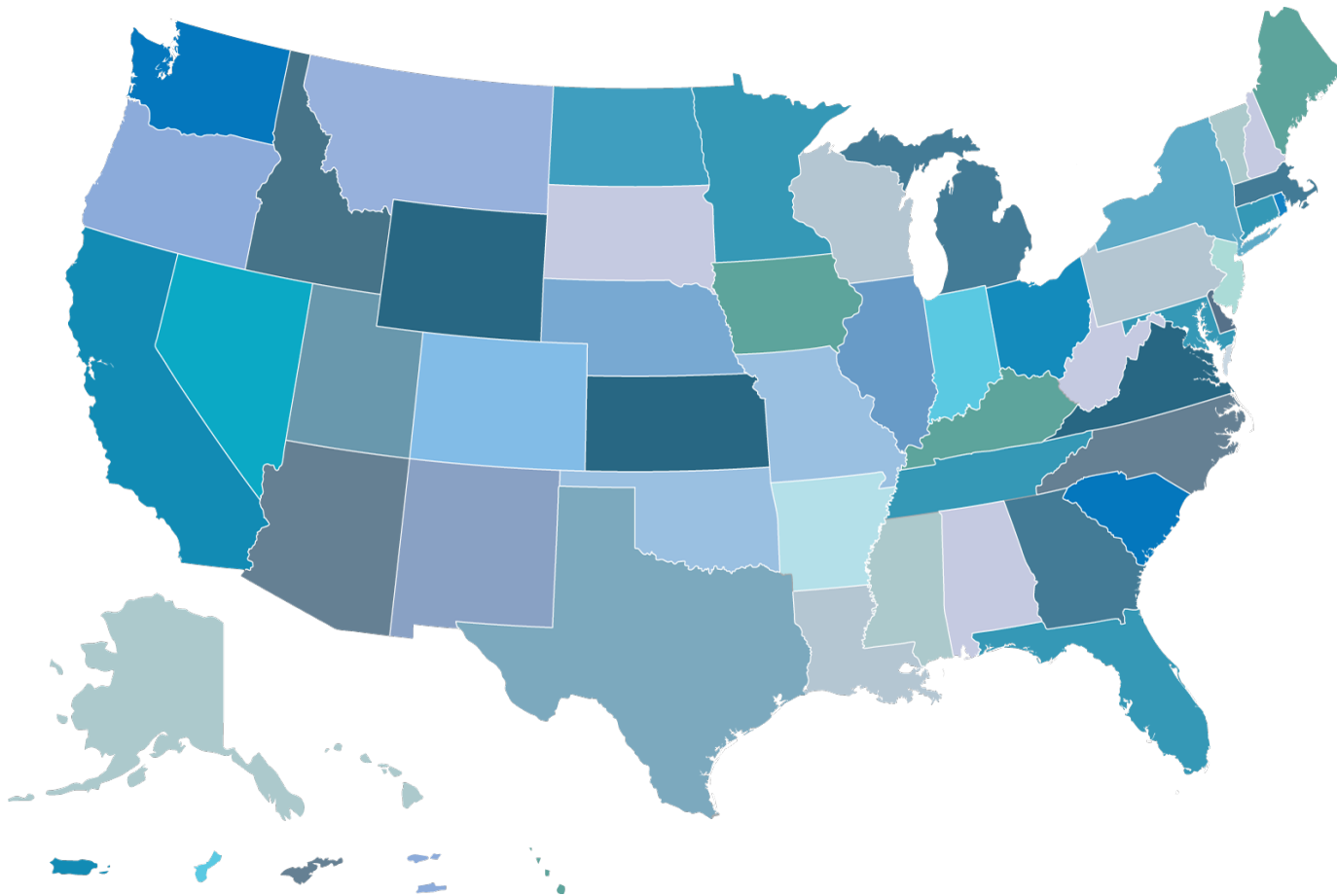
# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: A LITTLE HISTORY

**Early 2000s:** Every U.S. state has developed its own academic content standards and assessments



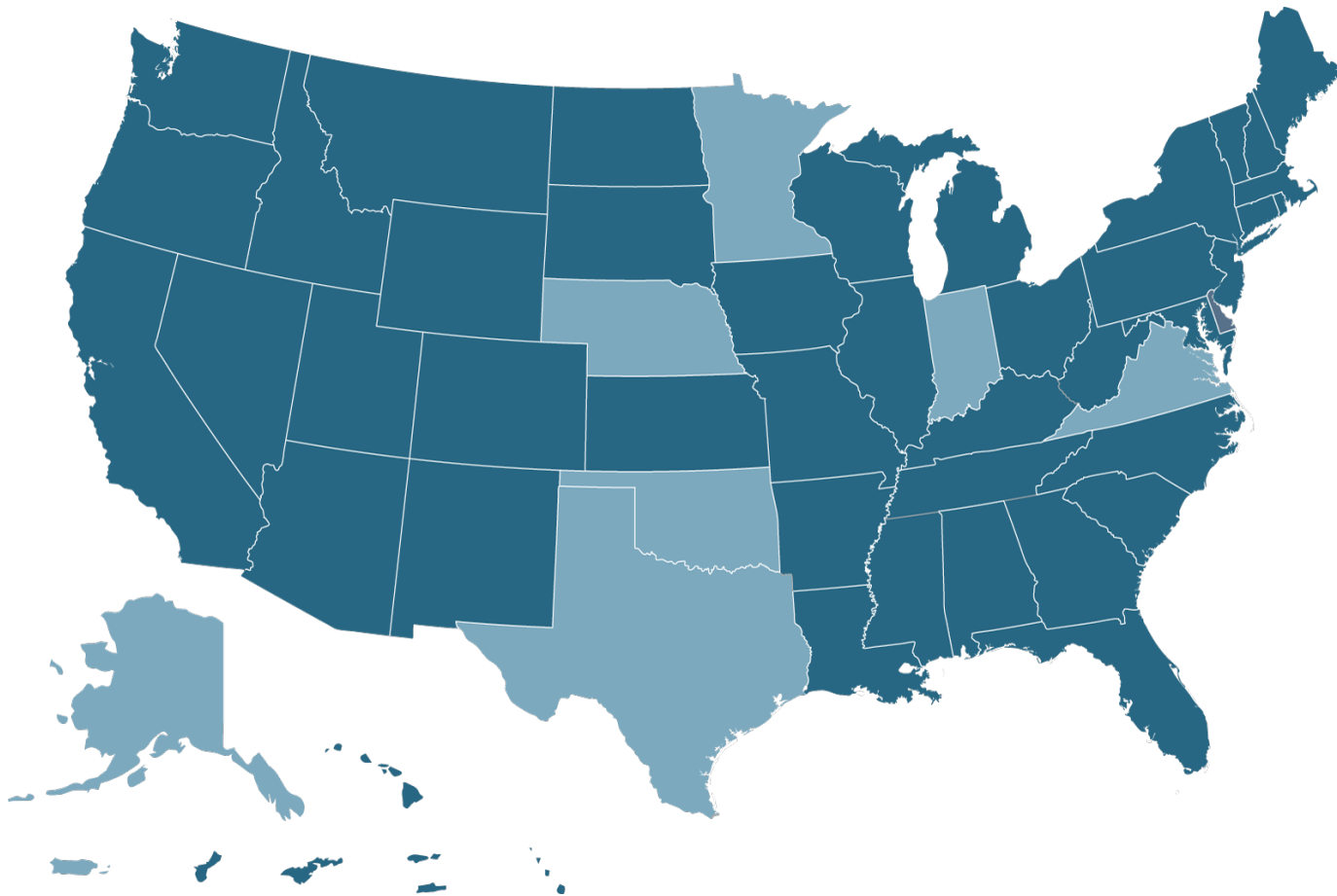
# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: A LITTLE HISTORY

**2009:** State leaders launch effort to develop consistent standards to prepare students for college and careers



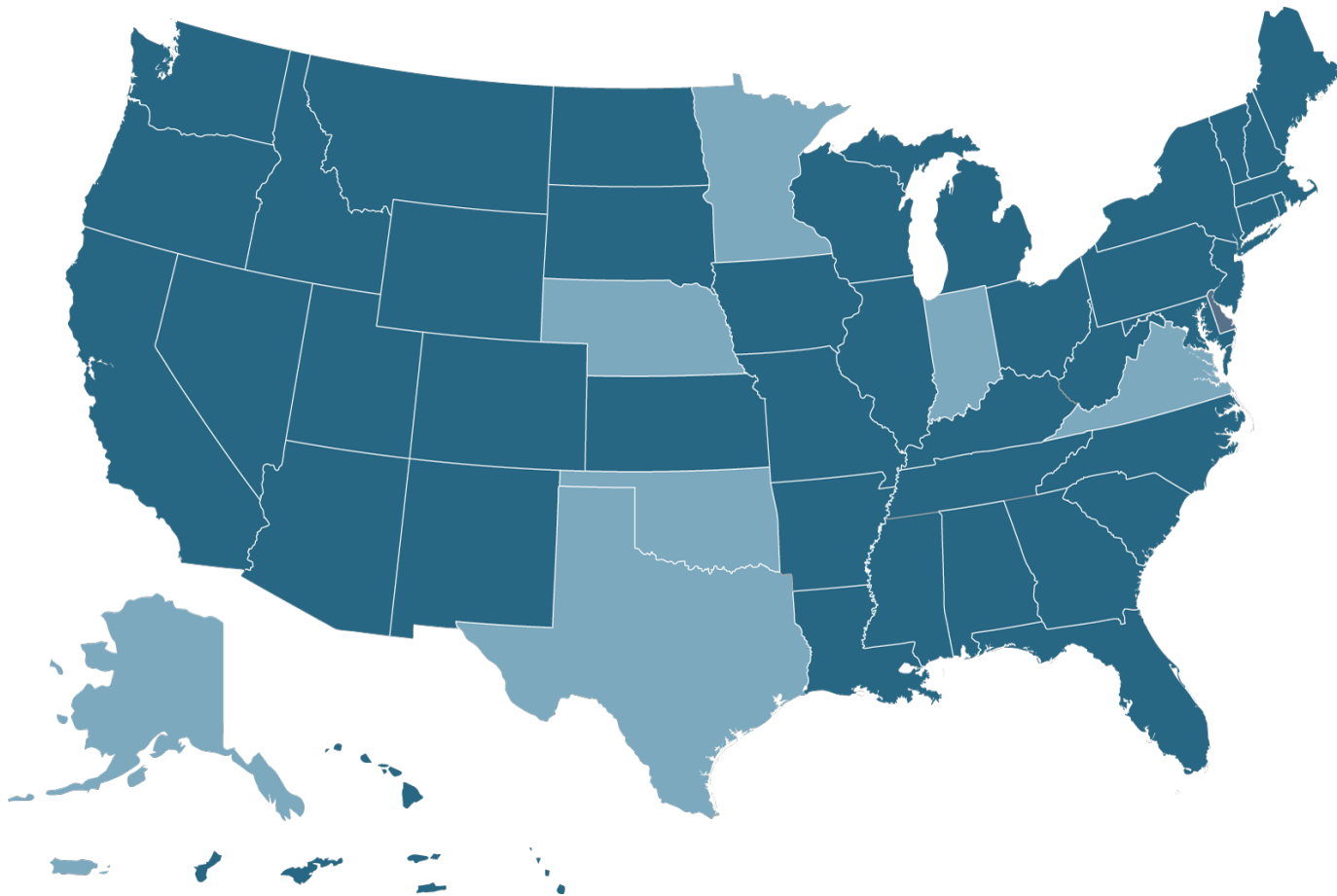
# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: A LITTLE HISTORY

**2010:** K–12 grade-by-grade college and career readiness standards are completed, reviewed, validated and published



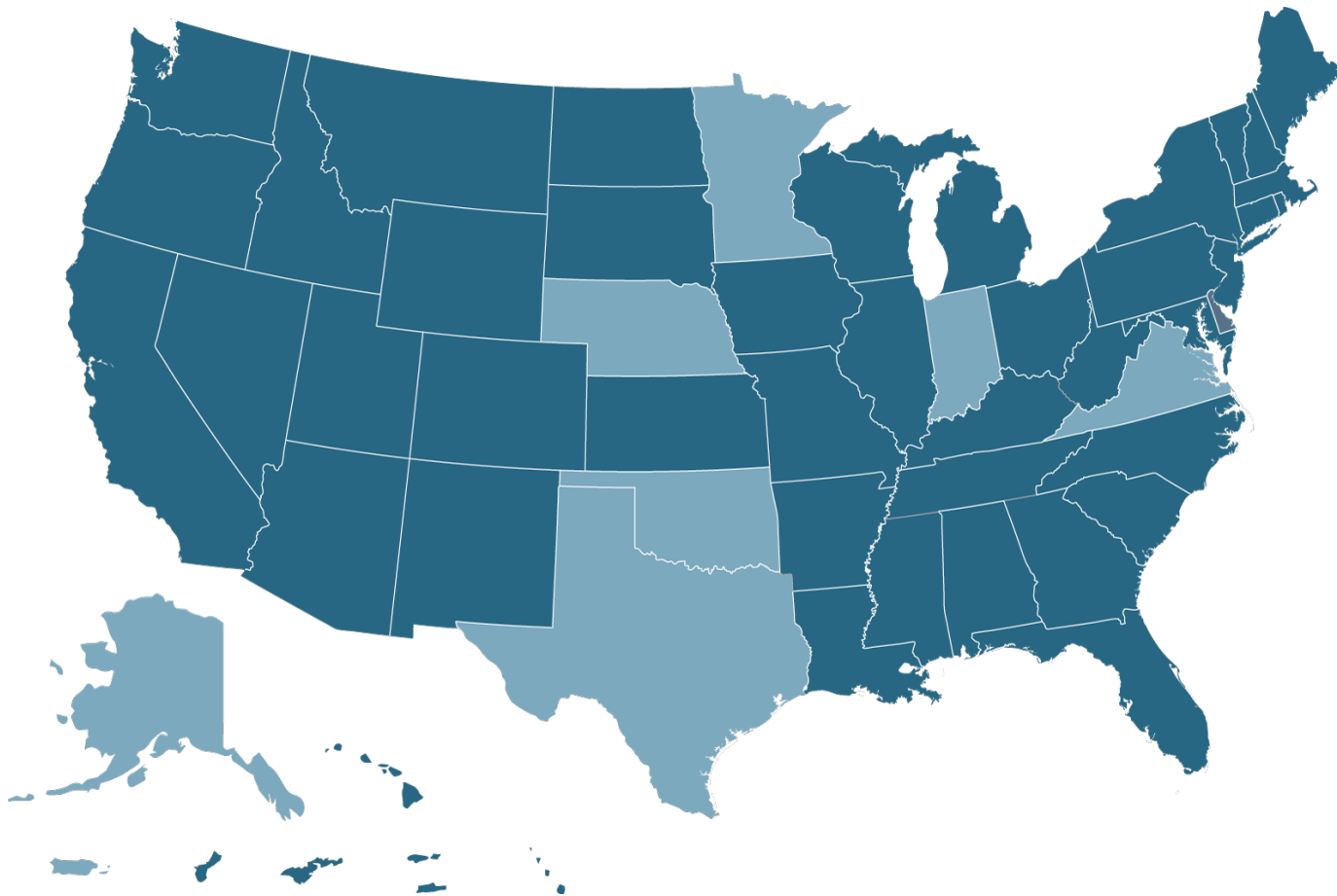
# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: A LITTLE HISTORY

**2010:** Oregon adopts the Common Core State Standards, replacing its previous standards in math and language arts



# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: A LITTLE HISTORY

**By 2014:** 43 states, D.C., 3 territories & Dept. of Defense schools have adopted and are implementing Common Core



# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT ARE THEY?

- **The Common Core are STANDARDS**
  - WHAT students need to know and be able to do at each grade level; consistent knowledge and skills
  - Set of clear goals and expectations
- **They are NOT CURRICULUM**
  - HOW to teach is up to our district and schools
  - Texts, resources and materials are not dictated
- **They are NOT ASSESSMENT**
  - The Smarter Balanced Assessment is a way of measuring student progress based on the academic standards



# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT ARE THEY?

- Voluntary state-led effort for consistent standards, **not** a federal mandate
- Fewer, clearer, higher standards, based on evidence & research
- Aligned with college and work expectations
- Rigorous content and higher-order skills for 21<sup>st</sup> century success
- Internationally benchmarked: Incorporating standards of excellence found in high-achieving countries

**GOAL: All students ready for college and careers**



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# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

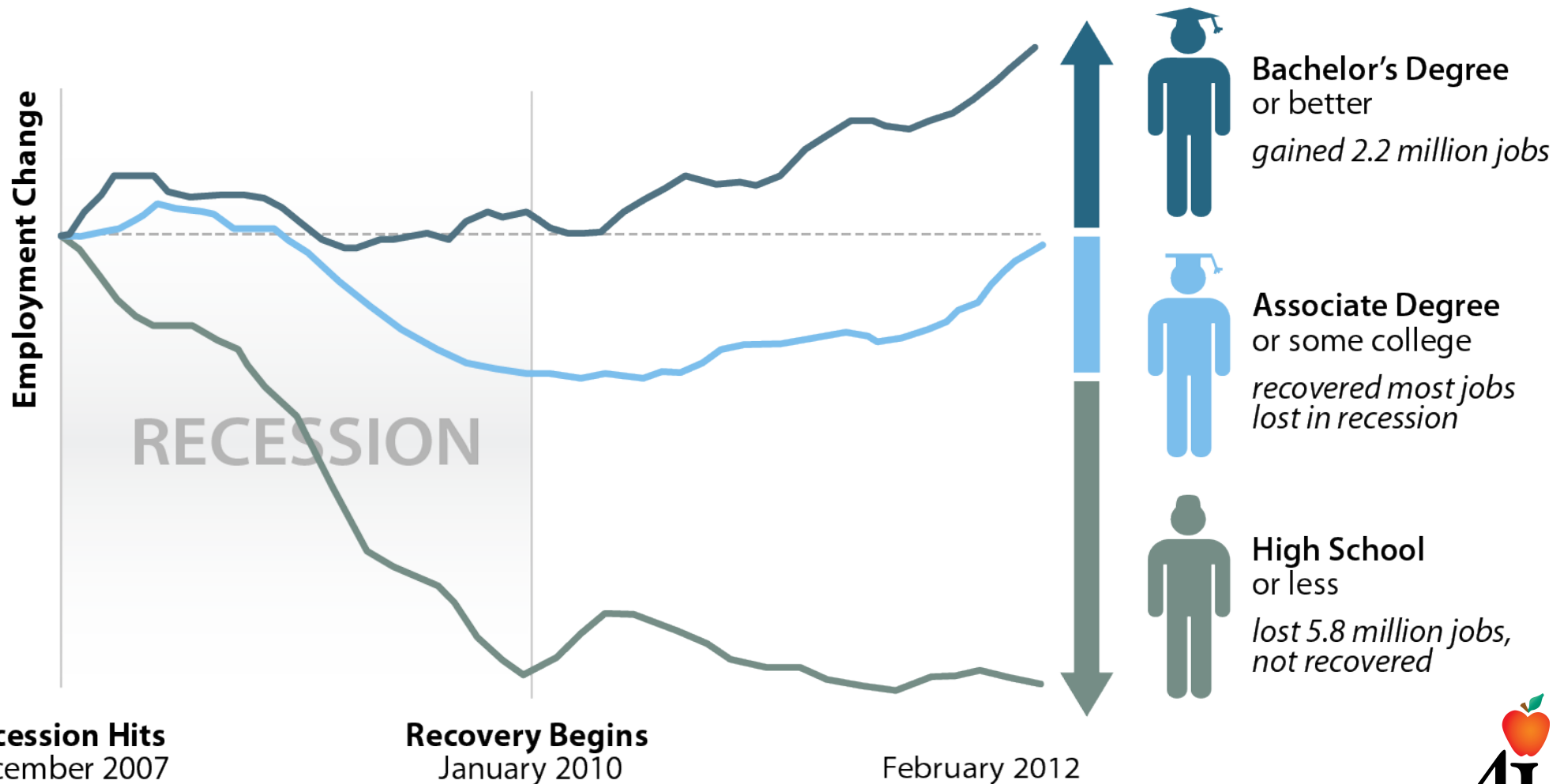


WHY ARE WE USING THEM?



# WHY: RAISE THE TARGET

## JOBS OF TODAY & TOMORROW REQUIRE MORE



Source: Carnevale, A. P., Jayasundera, T., & Cheah, B. (2012). *The college advantage: Weathering the economic storm*. Washington, DC: Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Center on Education and the Workforce.

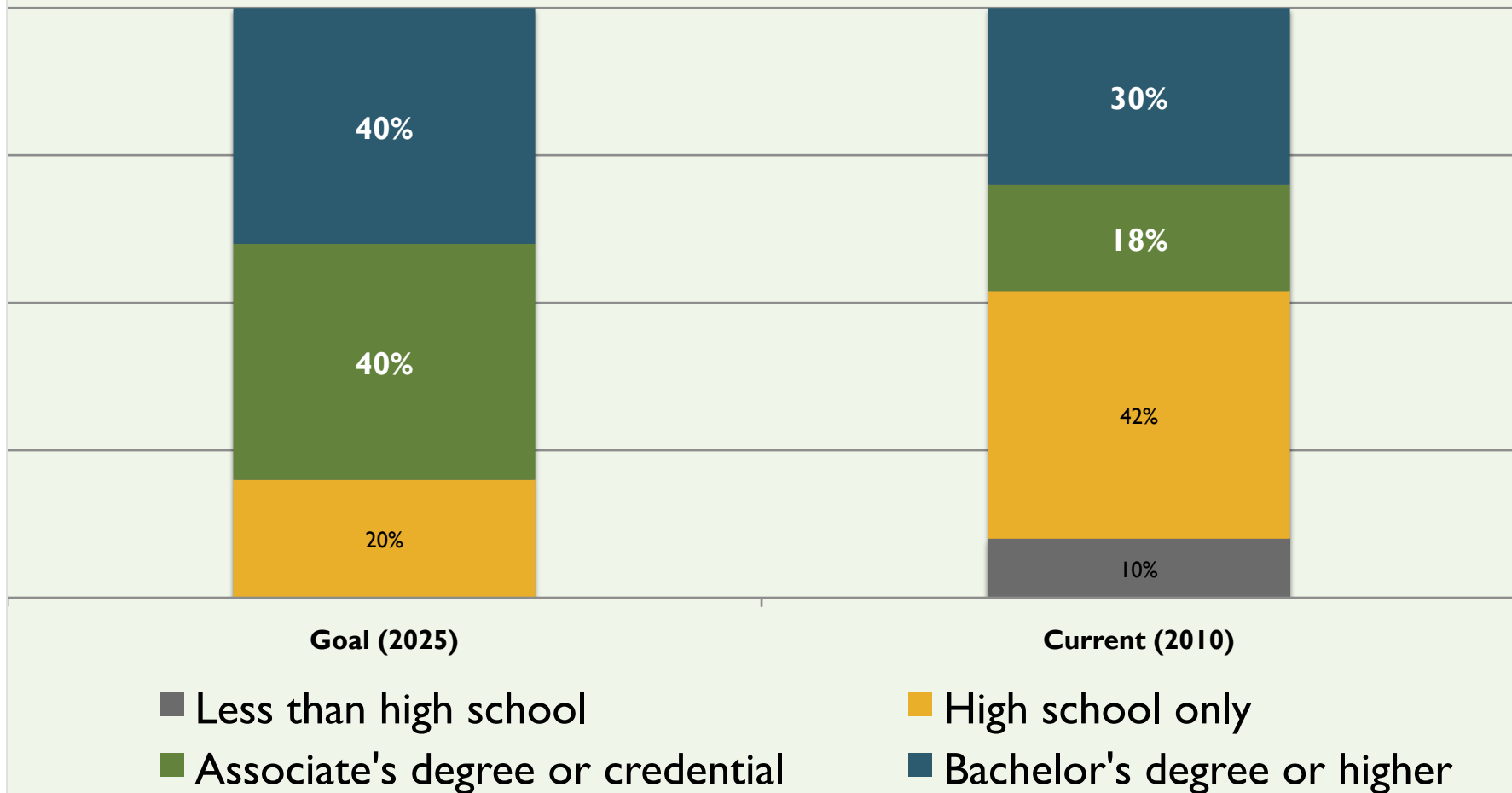
# WHY: RAISE THE TARGET

## WE LIVE IN A CERTIFICATE SOCIETY



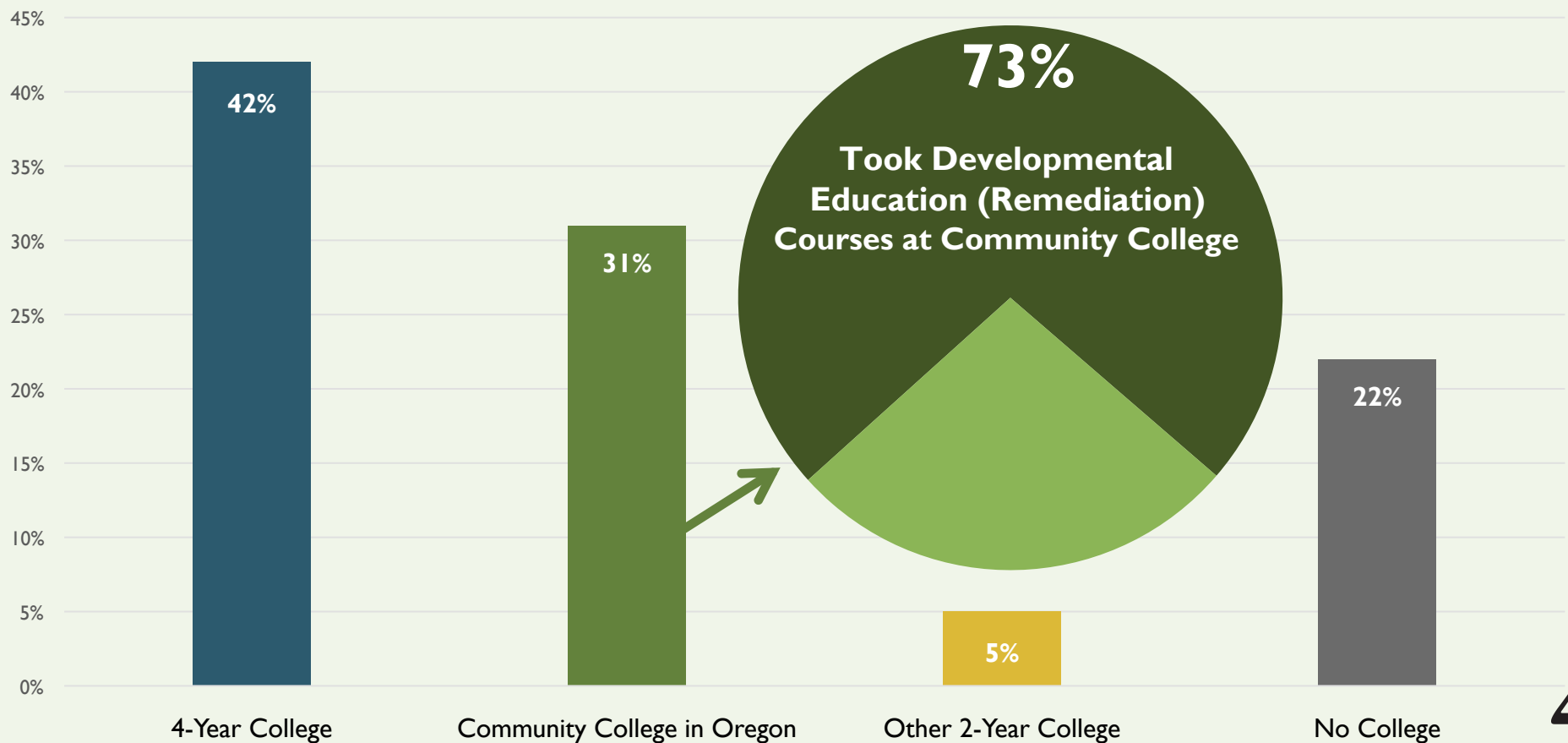
# WHY: RAISE THE TARGET ACHIEVE 40-40-20 BY 2025

## Oregonians' education: Goal far beyond current reality



# WHY: RAISE THE BAR MANY GRADUATES NOT READY FOR COLLEGE

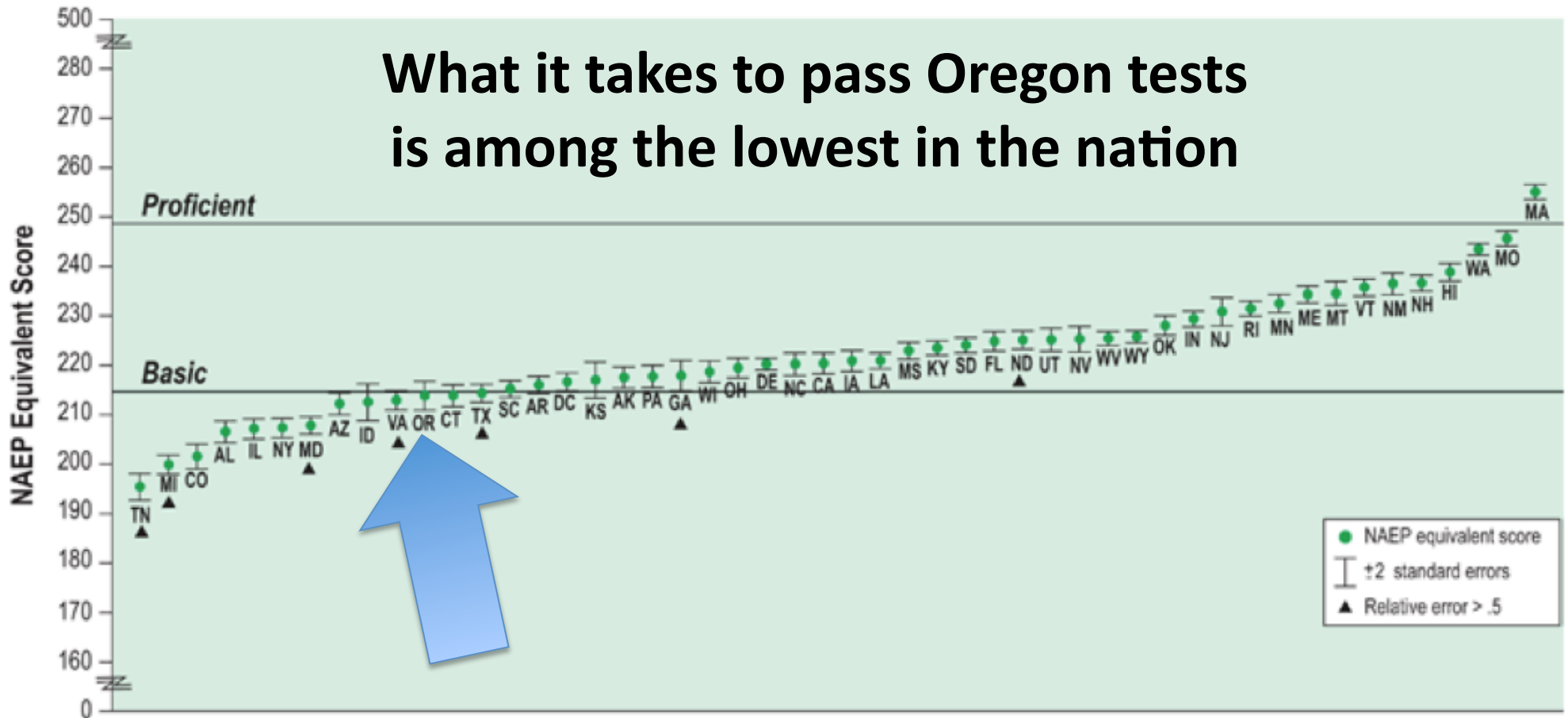
**Of the HS graduates we can track, 73% need remedial courses in community college.**



**First college after 4J high school graduation (class of 2005–2011)**

# WHY: RAISE THE BAR OREGON'S BAR HAS BEEN SET TOO LOW

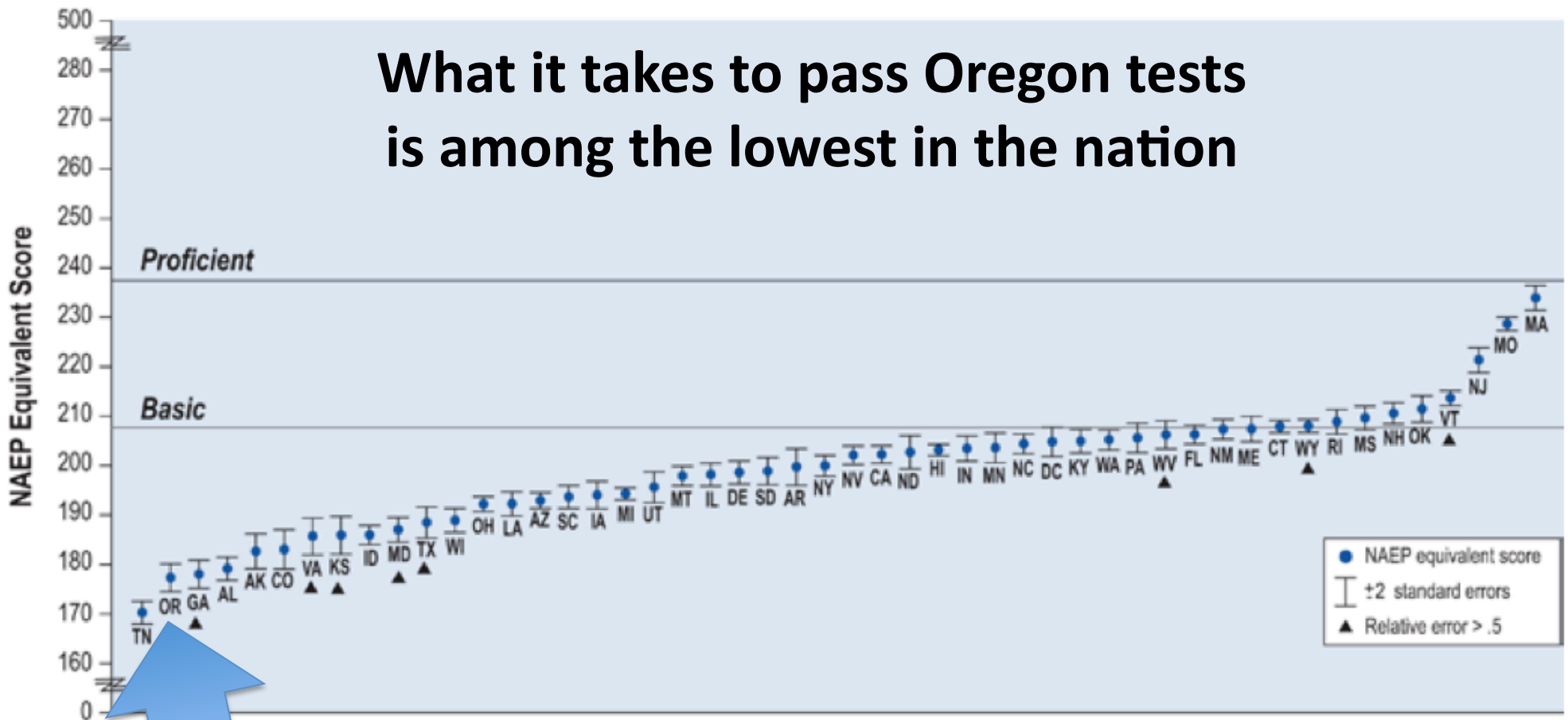
What it takes to pass Oregon tests is among the lowest in the nation



4<sup>th</sup> grade math

# WHY: RAISE THE BAR OREGON'S BAR HAS BEEN SET TOO LOW

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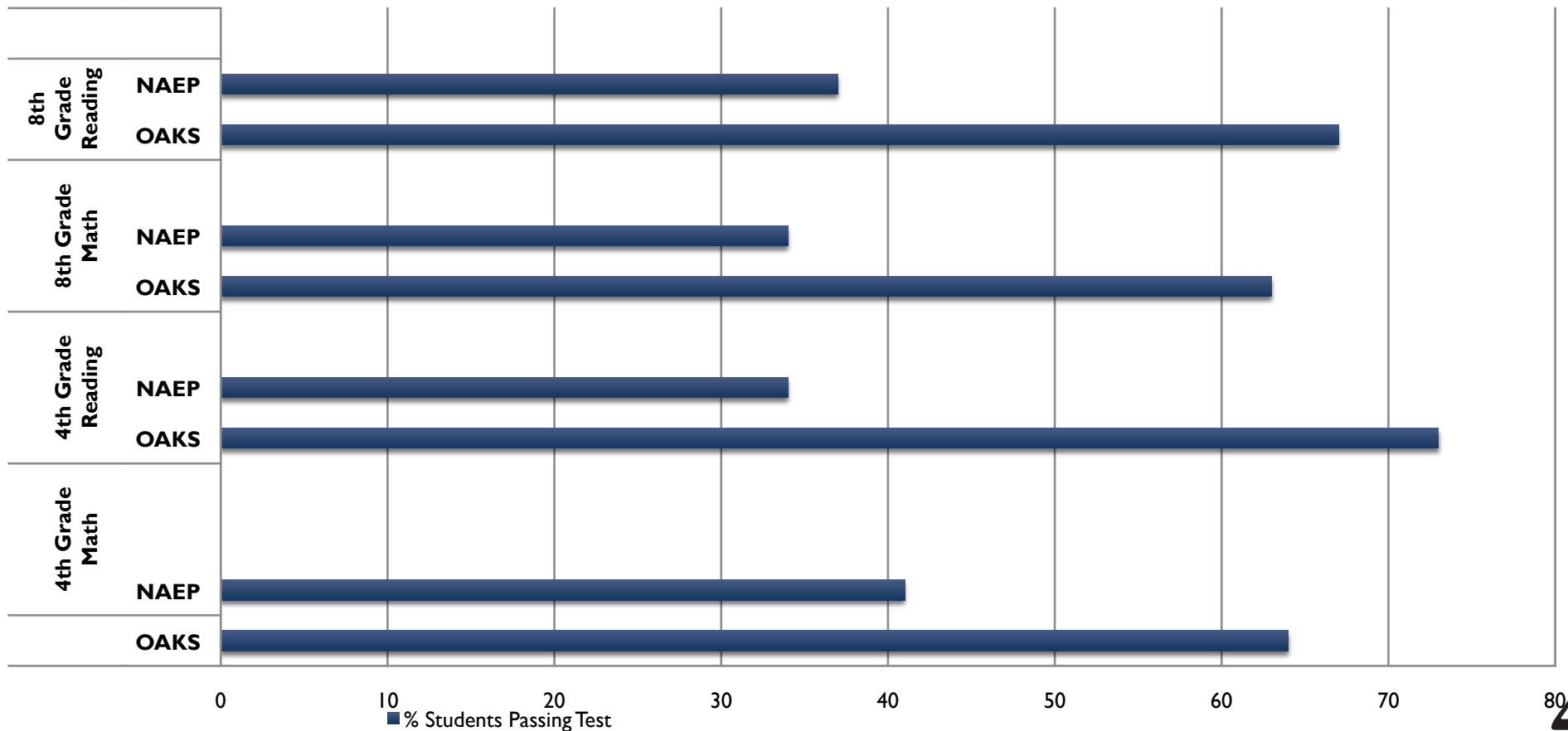
4<sup>th</sup> grade reading



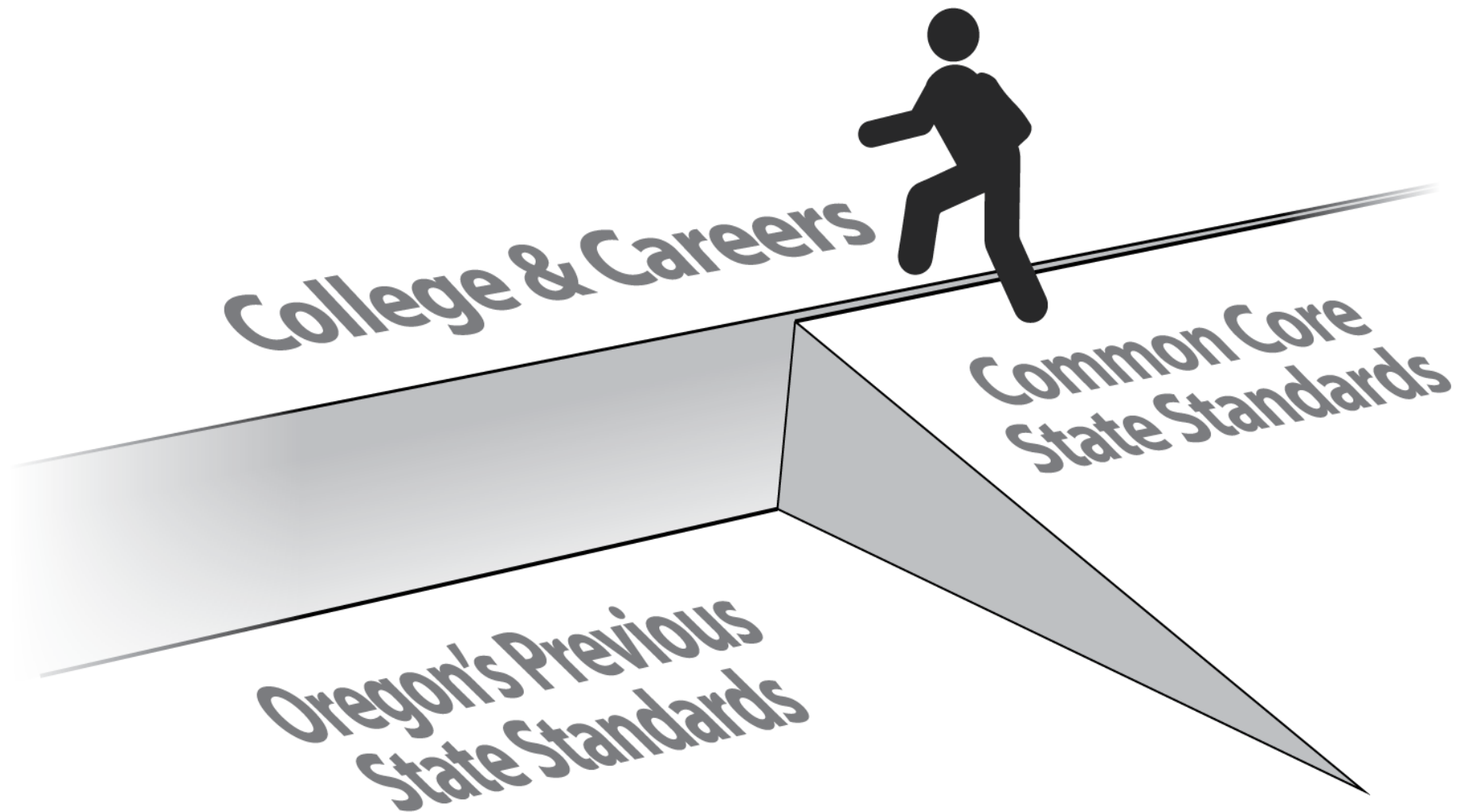
# WHY: RAISE THE BAR

## COLLABORATE & COMPARE NATIONALLY

**Most Oregon students pass tests based on Oregon's old standards, but don't perform as well on nationwide test**



# WHY: FIX THE SYSTEM — COMMON CORE GETS OREGON EDUCATION ON RIGHT TRAJECTORY



# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHERE DID THEY COME FROM? WHY ARE WE USING THEM?

**3-minute  
video**



# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHICH SUBJECTS DO THEY ADDRESS?

Standards for kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in:

- Language arts — reading & writing
- Mathematics
- Literacy standards across all subjects

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN LANGUAGE ARTS?

## Changes in **Language Arts**:

- More reading from informational texts
- More complex texts from grade to grade
- More emphasis on using evidence in all subjects
- More focus on reading and writing in all subjects

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN MATH?

## Changes in **Math**:

- Diving deeper into fewer topics, rather than being “a mile wide and an inch deep”
- Building across grades, so students’ learning about each math concept grows over time
- Teaching the concept, procedure and application with equal importance, so students really understand and can apply their learning

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT IS THE SAME?

Our district has:

- the same responsibility to use Oregon state standards that we've had for more than 100 years
- the same responsibility to assess students' learning based on state standards
- the same control over curriculum
- the same control over instructional practice

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO MY STUDENT?

In **Language Arts**, you should expect to see:

- Real world examples that make what students are learning more relevant
- Reading materials that are both non-fiction and fiction (increased informational texts)
- Writing assignments that emphasize using evidence from multiple sources



# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO MY STUDENT?

In **Math**, you should expect to see:

- Real-world examples that make what students are learning more relevant
- Increased reading and writing expectations
- Math work that emphasizes process over getting the one “right answer”
- Math work that asks students to use and evaluate different methods to solve the same problem

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO MY STUDENT?

In **Science, Social Studies, and other subjects**, you should expect to see written assignments that ask students to:

- Use more than one source of information
- Use evidence to support their statements
- Read and write well

# THESE ARE SHIFTS, NOT BRAND-NEW APPROACHES

- Oregon teachers reported that approximately 80% of their curriculum and pedagogy was aligned to Common Core State Standards.
- Eugene 4J teachers have been prioritizing curriculum and aligning strategies in recent years.
- Many supports, resources, and interventions are in place and continue to be developed and implemented for all students, and particularly those who struggle.

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# SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT: NEW OAKS TEST IN MATH & LANGUAGE ARTS



OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY



# TESTING: A LITTLE HISTORY

- State tests are nothing new.
  - Oregon public schools are required to assess how well students have mastered state standards:
    - Do they know what they need to know, and can they do what they need to do, at their grade level?
- In recent years the assessment has been OAKS, aligned to the old standards.

# TESTING: WHY CHANGE THE STATE TEST?

- New standards require new tools to measure student learning, aligned to the new standards
- Many states are working to develop common tests, rather than every state being different
- Oregon is partnering with ~20 other states in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

# TESTING: WHAT IS SMARTER BALANCED?

- New Smarter Balanced OAKS tests replace the old OAKS tests for language arts and math
- OAKS test for science has not changed
- Oregon state tests are taken on a computer; this is familiar to Oregon students

# TESTING: HOW IS SMARTER BALANCED TEST DIFFERENT?

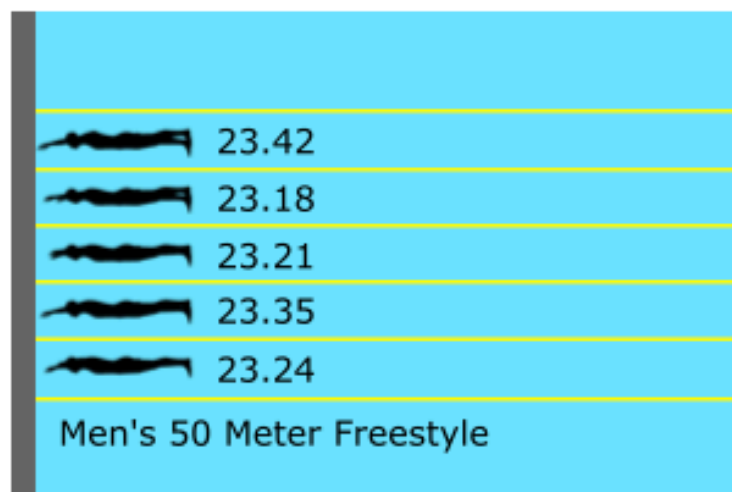
- Part of test is computer adaptive: it adjusts difficulty of questions based on student's responses
- Part of test asks students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world problems
- Aligned with standards, problems are more content rich and require students to articulate their thinking



# TESTING: SMARTER BALANCED SAMPLE MATH PROBLEM

Five swimmers compete in the 50-meter race. The finish time for each swimmer is shown in the video.

tion



Explain how the results of the race would change if the race used a clock that rounded to the nearest tenth.

# TESTING: WHAT DOES THE CHANGE MEAN FOR MY STUDENT?

What the Smarter Balanced test means for you:

- More valuable information for students, parents and teachers about student's learning progress
- More accurate reflection of student's readiness for high school graduation, college and careers
- Some students will spend less time taking state tests
- Graduation requirements have not gotten tougher for current high school students (for graduation, passing score will be equivalent to old OAKS passing score)



# TESTING: HOW TO LEARN MORE

- Join us for another parent information night in February or March, focused on state tests
- Visit [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)

# BREAKOUT SESSION

## DISCUSS:

What questions do you still have about the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment?

