

Today's kindergartners (2007-08) will graduate in 2020.

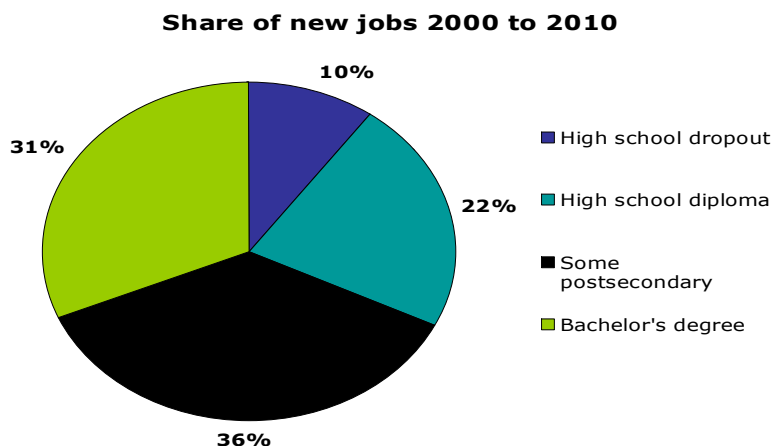


Will they be prepared for the world of 2020?

In Minnesota there are approximately one-third more children ages 5 through 18 than there are people aged 62 and over. In 2020, there will be more people age 62 and over than children aged 5 to 18...almost 10% more.¹ Will the children be prepared for jobs that will support themselves, their families, and proportionately more seniors than ever before?

“The majority of an age cohort — perhaps more than 80 percent — needs some form of postsecondary education to live and work productively in a rapidly changing, information-based economy.”²

More than two-thirds of the new jobs created by the time today's kindergartners graduate will require at least some postsecondary education.



Source: Carnevale, Anthony P. and Donna M. Desrochers, *Standards for What? The Economic Roots of K-16 Reform*, Educational Testing Service, 2003.

Yet high school may not adequately prepare them for college..... 36% of the MN public high school graduates of 2002, who enrolled in a Minnesota public postsecondary institution within two years, took at least one remedial course in college.³

Only 23% of Minnesota high school students taking the ACT college entrance exam in 2007 were ready for college in all subjects....

ACT 2007 & College Readiness Minnesota

	MN	U.S.
Average composite score	21.2	22.5
% of test takers meeting or exceeding ACT college readiness benchmarks	31	23

23 % of test takers met the ACT-established [college readiness benchmark scores](#) for all four subjects tested: English (18), math (22), reading (21), and science (24).

Source: ACT College Readiness Report, 2007 Source: EPE Research Center, 2007

Even blue-collar jobs require high levels of academic preparation...

- **Requirements for iron workers:**
 - Recommended high school courses include Algebra, Geometry and Physics.
- **Requirements for electricians:**
 - Recommended high school courses include Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Physics.
- **Requirements for sheet metal workers:**
 - Four or five years of apprenticeship
 - Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and technical reading
- **Requirements for draftsmen:**
 - Recommended high school courses include Geometry and Trigonometry.
 - Draftsmen may wish to seek additional study in mathematics and computer-aided design to keep up with technological progress within the industry.

Sources: American Diploma Project, 2002; The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) <http://www.agc.org/page.do?section=About+AGC&name=About+AGC>.

Developed countries already graduate more students from high school than the United States...

	OECD Reporting Country	Graduation Rate (%)	
			9 Hungary 82
1	Denmark	100	9 Italy 82
2	Norway	97	12 Czech Republic 81
3	Germany	93	13 Belgium 79
4	Japan	92	13 Iceland 79
5	Poland	90	15 Ireland 77
5	Switzerland	90	16 United States 73
7	Finland	85	17 Sweden 72
7	Greece	85	18 Luxembourg 68
9	France	82	18 Spain 68
			20 Slovak Republic 61

Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Education at a Glance 2004*, 2004.

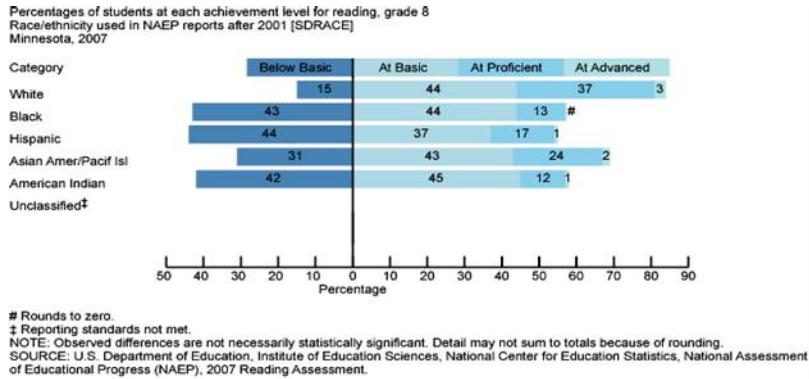
And in an increasingly flat world, the majority of their future co-workers live across the Pacific Ocean...



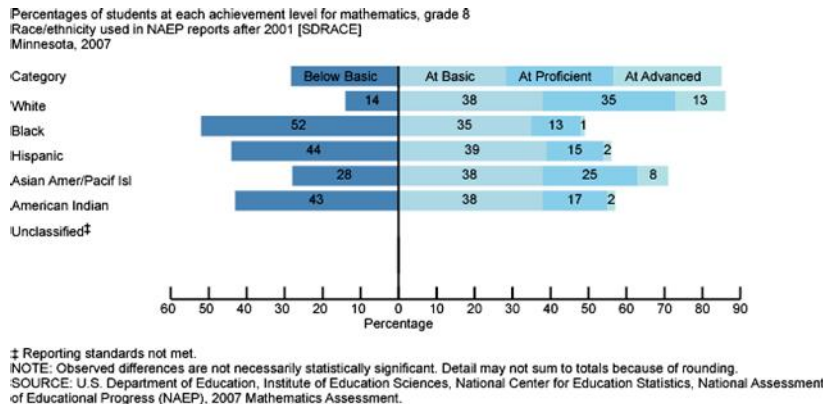
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Will our schools be ready?

Only 54% of Minnesota 8th graders measured as 'proficient' on the national NAEP reading test in 2007, and only 40% were proficient in math. 19-20% did not even demonstrate basic skills on the tests ...and the racial/ethnic breakouts showed significant disparities in educational outcomes.



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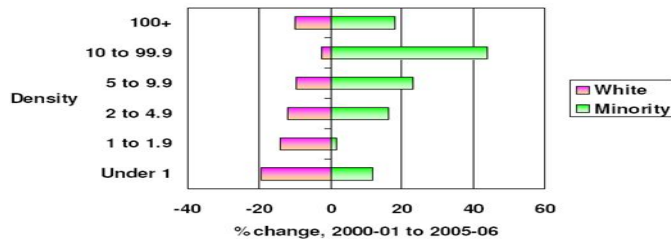


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And math achievement often doesn't improve in high school. Just 46% of our 9-12th graders took at least one upper-level math course during the 2003-2004 school year.⁴

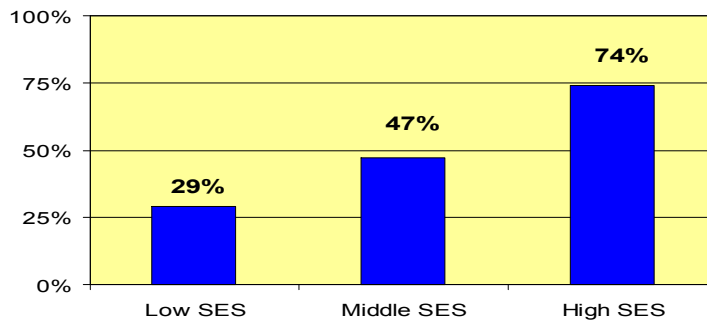
Minnesota's recent population growth is occurring among the students least well served by our schools.

White enrollments fall, minority enrollments rise in districts of all sizes



Minnesota Department of Education enrollment data; density from Land Management Information Center

Even when students are successful in grade school, family economic status is a barrier to completing education.



Percent of 8th graders with the highest math scores who go on to complete a bachelors degree

SES: Socioeconomic Status
Source: College Board, 2005

Once enrolled in college, students are sometimes unprepared because high school teachers and college instructors emphasize different elements in their classes.

High school teachers focus on....

- ...idea development in writing
-advanced math content
-science content

And decrease focus on reading strategies after 9th grade

Postsecondary instructors focus on....

- ...writing mechanics
- developing a more rigorous understanding of math fundamentals
- ...scientific process and inquiry skills

And increase focus on reading strategies with complex text

Source: 2005-06 ACT National Curriculum Survey

We must begin **now** to fulfill Minnesota's Promise and assure all children in our schools are prepared for 2020 and beyond!

¹ Minnesota State Demographic Center, www.demography.state.mn.us/estimates.html

² George D. Kuh, Jillian Kinzie, Jennifer A. Buckley, Brian K. Bridges, John C. Hayek, "What Matters to Student Success: A Review of the Literature," Commissioned Report for the National Symposium on Postsecondary Student Success: Spearheading a Dialog on Student Success, National Postsecondary Education Cooperative, July 2006, p. 105

³ Source: University of Minnesota Office of Institutional Research, and MnSCU Research and Planning, in "Getting Prepared: A 2005 report on recent high school graduates who took remedial or developmental courses." Education Commission of the States http://www.ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/statesTerritories/state_map.htm

⁴ *Measuring Up 2006: The State Report Card on Higher Education, Minnesota*. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, http://measuringup.highereducation.org/_docs/2006/statereports/MN06.pdf