

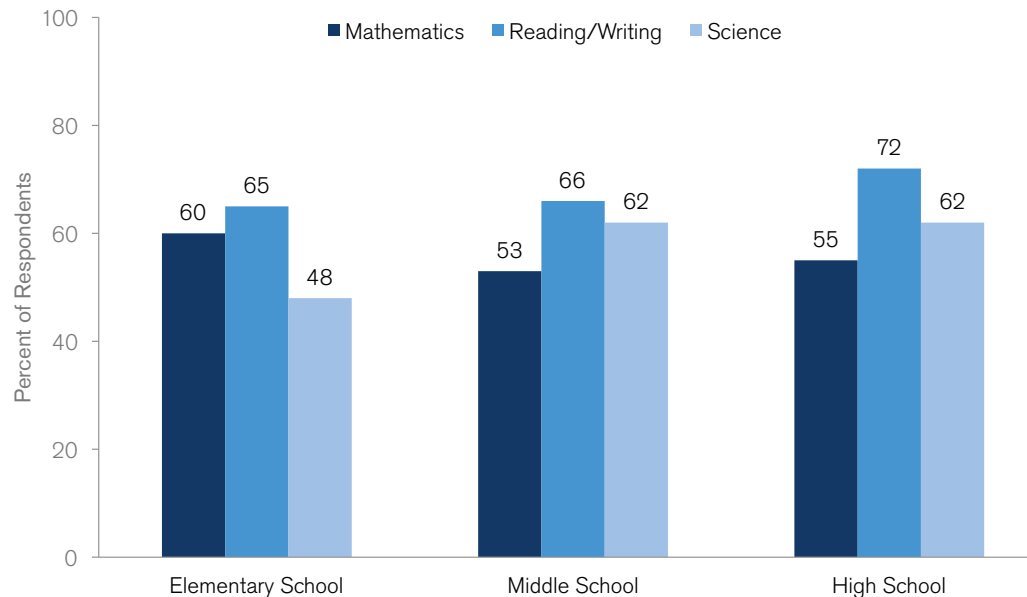
ACT National Curriculum Survey®: K–12 Teachers’ Opinions about the Need for Curriculum Change in Response to the Common Core State Standards

Percent of K–12 Educators Reporting They Will Need to Change Their Curriculum “Not at All” or “Slightly” Given State Adoptions of the Common Core State Standards (among Educators Aware of the Standards)

About two-thirds of K–12 educators aware of the Common Core State Standards anticipate they will need to change their current curriculum no more than slightly, given state adoptions of the standards.

Every three to five years, the ACT National Curriculum Survey asks educators about what they teach (or don’t teach) in their courses and how important they feel various topics in their discipline are for students to know to be successful in future coursework. The survey also asks educators for their opinions on educational topics of current interest, such as the college readiness of their students or the implementation of improved standards like the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards or the Common Core State Standards.

This brief highlights a finding from the most recent (2012) survey particularly relevant to current education policy efforts.



In many states, districts, and schools across the United States, the Common Core represents a significant change in expectations for what students need to know and be able to do before high school graduation. Considering that, it is notable that such high proportions of the K–12 teachers surveyed in the ACT National Curriculum Survey reported that they will need to change their curriculum “slightly” or “not at all” to reflect the standards.¹

This confidence may suggest that teachers believe that they already teach to a college- and career-ready standard, or that, given a lack of familiarity with the standards (as found elsewhere in the survey), they may simply be as yet unaware how much impact the new standards will have on what they teach. ■

¹ ACT, Inc., *ACT National Curriculum Survey 2012: Policy Implications on Preparing for Higher Standards* (Iowa City, IA: Author, 2013). <http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/NCS-PolicySummary2012.pdf>.