

Redefining the Purpose of Secondary Education

David Hanna
Principal
Manheim Township High School
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Dr. Jessie L. Douglas
AVID/College Board District Coordinator
Baltimore County Public Schools
Towson, Maryland








PREPARING FOR WHAT?

IS THERE A DISCONNECT?
DO HIGH SCHOOLS PREPARE STUDENTS
FOR COLLEGE?
WHAT IMPACT DO STATE EXAMS HAVE?
SYSTEM OVERHALL OR MODIFICATION?



MISSION of the High School?

-  1. Graduate all students?
-  2. Prepare all students for college?
-  3. Have all students pass state exams?
-  4. Prepare students for careers, equipping them with workplace skills?



Today's Federal Mandate

 Teach every child







 Prove that every child is learning





Urgency for Change





Trend Data

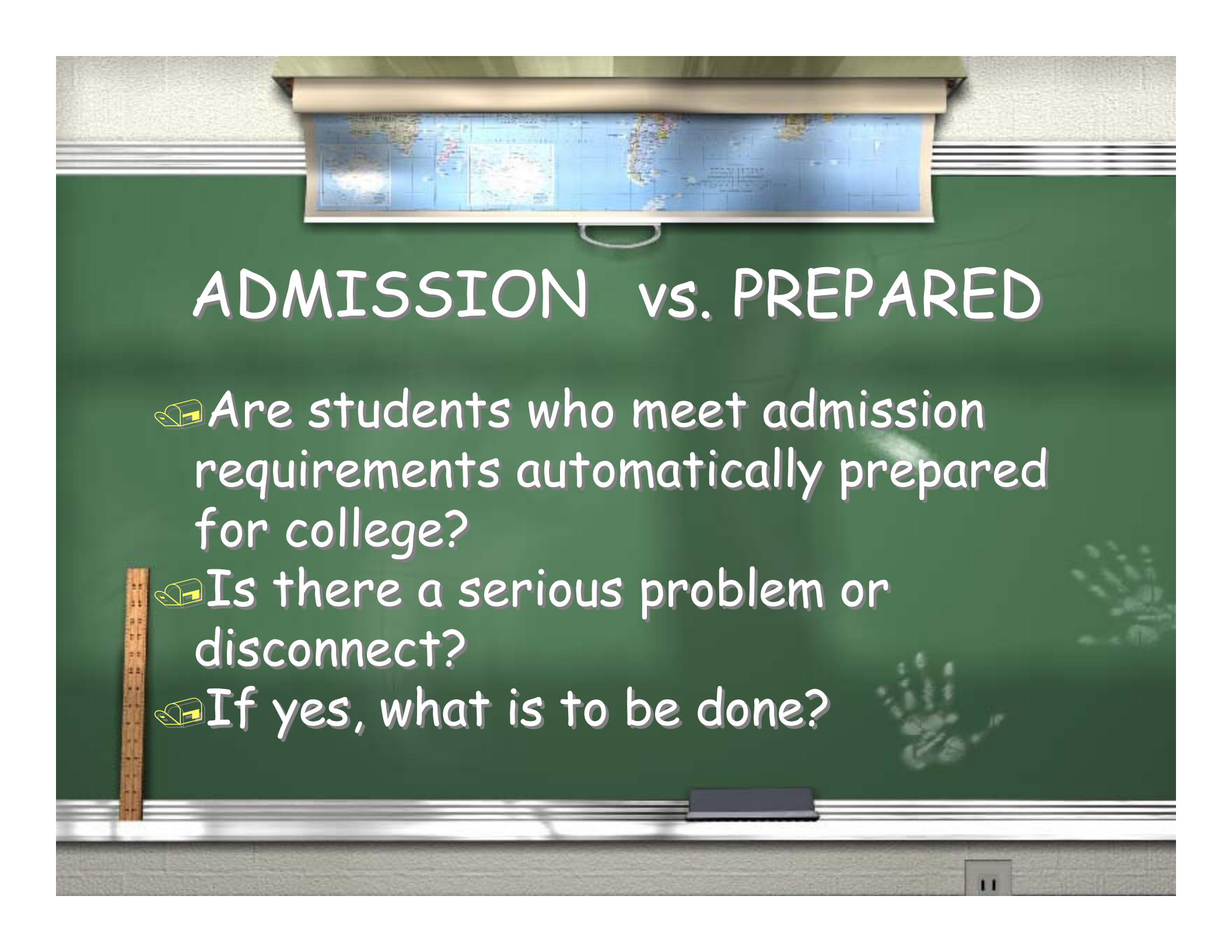
-  Enrollment in public schools is increasing (National Center for Educational Statistics, NCES, 2006)
 -  Asian and European high school students outperform U.S. students in math and science (NCES, June 2006)
 -  U.S. ranked 24th out of 29 nations in math problem-solving (Programme for International Assessment, 2003)
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Urgency for Change

Economic and Social Implications

-  90% of the fastest growing jobs require postsecondary/college education (U.S. Depart. of Labor, 2006).
 -  U.S. college graduates earn two times as much as workers with just high school diplomas (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).
 -  U.S. public schools have the most diverse student population (43%) now than at any other time in history (The Condition of Education in America Report, U.S. Department of Education, June 2006).
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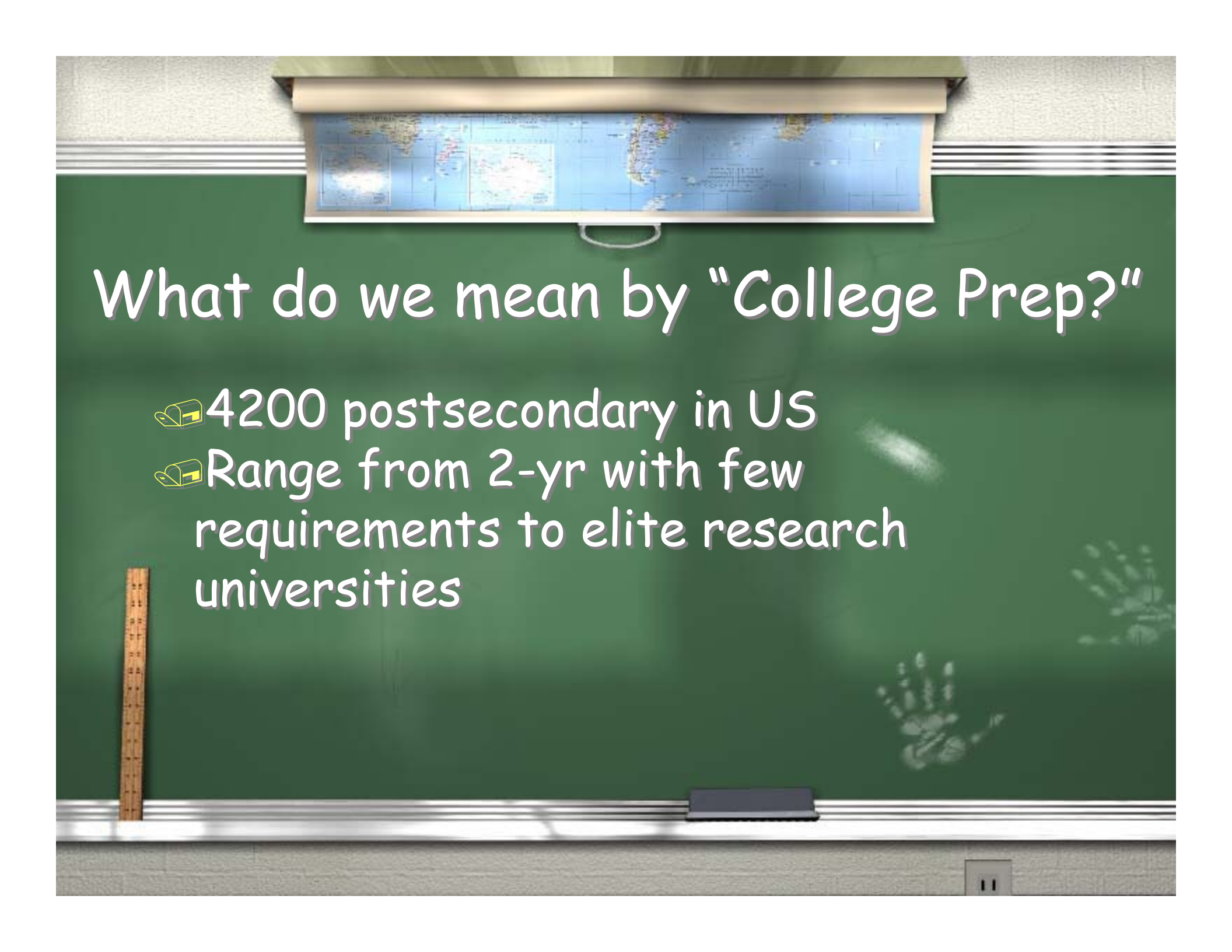


ADMISSION vs. PREPARED

 Are students who meet admission requirements automatically prepared for college?


 Is there a serious problem or disconnect?

 If yes, what is to be done?




What do we mean by "College Prep?"

 4200 postsecondary in US

 Range from 2-yr with few requirements to elite research universities




EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS


 88% of 8th graders expect to participate in some form of postsecondary education and 70% of HS grads actually do go to college within two years of graduating.

 Kirst and Venezia




ADMISSION vs. COMPLETION

 3 out of 4 HS grads enter some form of postsecondary education.

 Just over 6 in 10 earn a bachelor's degree within six years in four-year colleges.




SUCCESS IN COLLEGE

 Between 30% and 60% of students now require remedial education upon entry to college




REMEDICATION REQUIRED


 Fall of 2000, 63% of public 2-yr and 38% of public 4-yr and 17% of private 4-yr institutions reported students averaged a year of more of remedial course taking.

 National Center for Education Statistics, 2004
 "CRISIS AT THE CORE": 2005, ACT report




Remediation Related to Failure

 Students who take two or more remedial courses are unlikely to graduate.


 But, they were admitted, and probably were in "college prep" high school courses



Impact of State Assessments (1)

 "High school assessments and the knowledge and skills necessary for university readiness align in areas that might be characterized as more basic and do not align as well in areas requiring more sophisticated cognitive functioning."
(cont on next slide)

Impact of State Assessments (1)



"...results from these tests should be interpreted with caution if used for post-secondary decisions. This finding is particularly important in light of recent initiatives by some states to consider linking their current exams to placement, financial aid, and admission decisions.

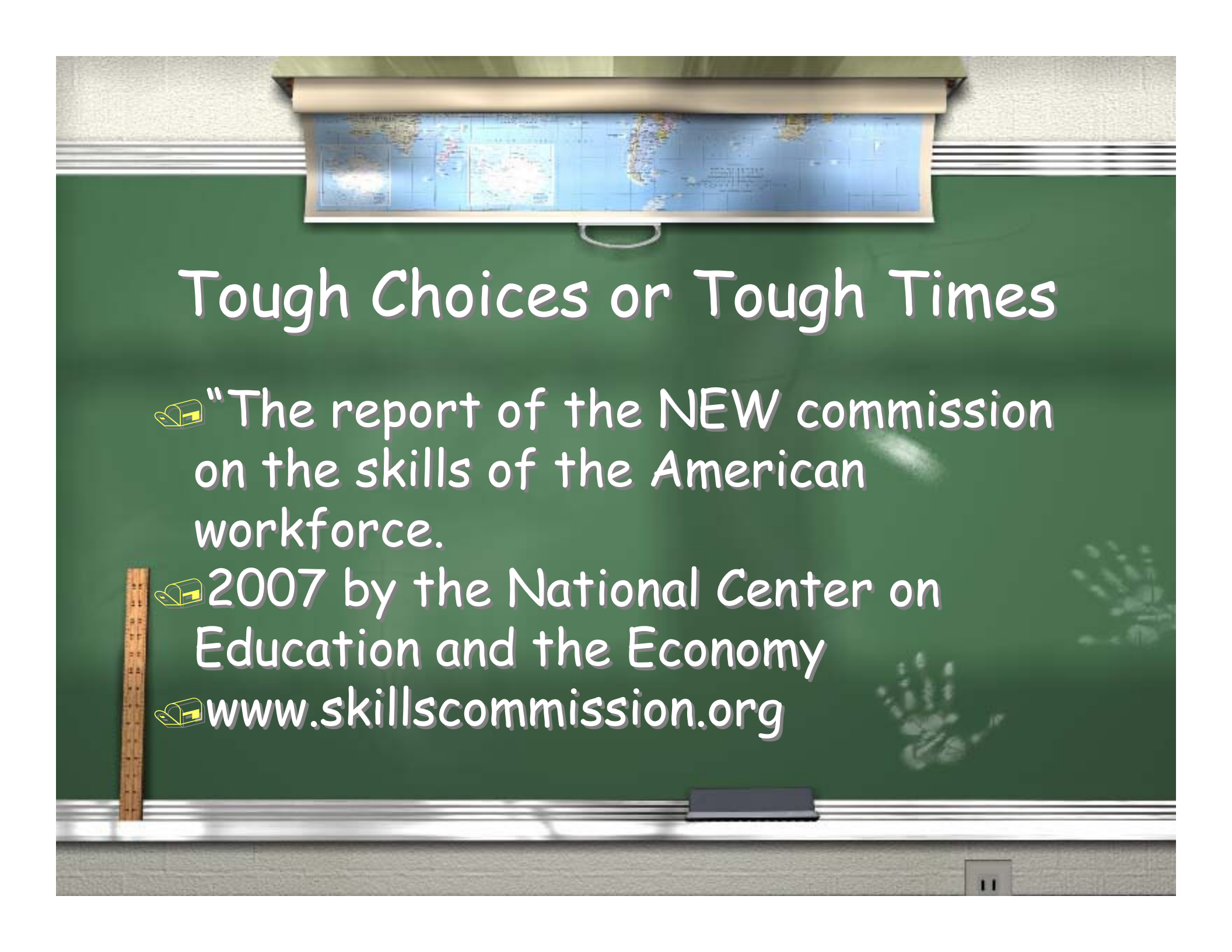


Brown and Conley




WORK PLACE vs. COLLEGE?

 Surveys or employers reveal emphasis on employability skills, not necessarily part of the college prep curriculum.



Tough Choices or Tough Times

 "The report of the NEW commission on the skills of the American workforce.

 2007 by the National Center on Education and the Economy

 www.skillscommission.org



Tough Choices or Tough Times

- 📁 New Exams to test the new skills and to sort students.
- 📁 IF all recommendations are not adopted, there will not be a positive change.
- 📁 Vague about where or how the necessary items will be developed.



Tough Choices or Tough Times

- 📦 All jobs are threatened by lower labor costs world-wide.
- 📦 The only solution is to develop new products and services: innovate and create.
- 📦 Our education system does not work.
- 📦 Revolutionize (CHANGE) our system.





Tough Choices or Tough Times


- 📁 Where will the new tests come from? The entire proposal hinges on this.
- 📁 Change role of School Boards: Hire "Independent Contractors"
- 📁 Send the \$ where it is needed. State not local funding.
- 📁 Local regional economic development authorities to coordinate education and training.



Crisis at the Core (ACT)







 Most students "aspire" to go to college, but are not doing what is necessary.

 Core curriculum is not enough. Nature and quality of the courses matters.

 K-8 curriculum, teacher preparation and guidance are all key to success.



Factors that Correlate with Student Achievement

-  Rigor of curriculum
-  Teacher experience and attendance
-  Teacher preparation
-  Class size
-  Technology-assisted instruction
-  School safety

 Educational Leadership, Nov. 2004




Closing the gap: What's Needed?

- 📖 High School Principals: Time mgt., critical read and write skills, increased rigorous course participation, and self-discipline.
- 📖 Superintendents: Early college prep focus, increased access to rigorous courses, seamless pre-K to 16 curriculum.





Closing the gap: What's Needed?

 College Presidents/Deans: "75% is student commitment to a college education." "Skill mastery in the 3R's" "Critical thinking skills in math and writing and socialization/survival skills."




Closing the Gap: What's Needed?

 Teachers: Time management, reading and writing skills, note-taking skills

 Counselors: Writing skills, study skills, good study habits, developmental skills (social/emotional)



Closing the Gap: What's Needed?

 College Students: Stronger skills in math, reading, and writing, study skills, organization, time management skills, computer-based research and self discipline.

 Parents: More involvement