

## First State Implementing Common Core Shows 'Faster' Learning Progress



In Kentucky, the first state to adopt Common Core, students with more exposure to the standards made faster progress in learning than peers who followed previous state standards, according to new AIR analysis.

Because the state requires high school juniors to take the ACT exam, researchers were able to study the college readiness of all students before and after Common Core implementation. Results show ACT scores improved after the standards were introduced. AIR's researchers don't attribute these achievement gains to the Common Core, but do note that fears about its impact on student outcomes are "overstated."

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## Brief: Elementary and Secondary Education Act's Title IIA Needs Fixing



As Congress debates reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a new AIR policy brief looks at how Title IIA—the program that seeks to improve student achievement through educator quality—can be

changed for the better. Principal researcher **Jane Coggshall** outlines options that include redefining what professional development means and re-engineering Title IIA to focus strictly on continuous performance improvement while keeping implementation flexible.

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## Module Helps Those With Traumatic Brain Injury Understand Depression



A collection of resources available through the AIR-run Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center helps people with traumatic brain injury recognize signs of depression and identify treatment options. The module includes fact

sheets, slideshows, research reviews and a new video that shares the stories of two people: Brandon, severely injured while bicycling, and Michele, hurt in a fall.

## IN THE NEWS

### Are Harvard, Yale and Stanford Really Public Universities?

**Mark Schneider** asks "What is the public purpose of a school that educates wealthy people and foreign students?"

*The Washington Post, 4/6/15*

### We're Frighteningly in the Dark About Student Debt

**Thomas Weko** talks about the challenges of making student-loan data available for research.

*The New York Times, 3/20/15*

[> Read more AIR media coverage](#)



## IN BRIEF

AIR **helps bring** DataFest, a big-data competition, to Washington, D.C. for the first time this weekend.

AIR collaborates with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to **expand** its "HIV Treatment Works" campaign in seven cities, including Chicago.

## New Report Looks at Indiana Data for Predictors of Early College Success



AIR researchers used Indiana's longitudinal student database to find measures that predict success early in college using four indicators: enrolling in only nonremedial coursework in the first semester, earning all attempted credits in the first semester, persisting to a second year of college, and a composite indicator of success combining the three others. Results show 92 percent of Indiana's 2010 high school graduates who enrolled in a public state college achieved success by at least one indicator, but only half achieved success by all indicators.

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## Latest Study of Transitional Kindergarten in California Focuses on Parents



The latest research brief in an AIR series on implementing transitional kindergarten in California looks at parents' perception of the program. School districts reported some parents mistook transitional kindergarten as a remedial program so didn't want their children to enroll. Despite the challenges, no groups of students were disproportionately left out of the program. And differences in ethnicity, poverty or English-learner status between students in transitional kindergarten and those in kindergarten were not significant.



AIR's Education Policy Center marks the 50th anniversary of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act with a video series covering the history, influence and future of the legislation.

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