Common Core State Standards

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Aligning the Education System to College- and Career-Readiness

Standards → Assessment → Accountability
Common Core State Standards: Quick Refresher

- State-led and developed Common Core State Standards for K-12 in English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Initiative led by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA)

Why did governors and chiefs do this?

- Prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and work
- Ensure consistent expectations regardless of a student’s zip code
- Make states more globally competitive
- Provide educators, parents, and students with clear, focused guideposts
- Offer economies of scale
Common Core State Standards Adoption
(as of December 2011)

45 states and D.C. have fully adopted the Common Core State Standards and Minnesota has adopted only the ELA standards.

Intentional design limitations

The standards do NOT define:

- How teachers should teach.
- All that can or should be taught.
- The nature of advanced work beyond the core.
- The interventions needed for students well below grade level.
- The full range of support for English learners and students with special needs.
- Everything needed for students to be college- and career-ready.
ELA Standards: Design and Organization

Four strands
- Reading (including Reading Foundational Skills)
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

Three appendices
A: Research and evidence; glossary of key terms
B: Reading text exemplars; sample performance tasks
C: Annotated student writing samples
Math Standards: Design and Organization

Standards for Mathematical Practice
- Carry across all grade levels
- Describe habits of mind of a mathematically expert student

Standards for Mathematical Content
- K-8 standards presented by grade level
- High school standards presented by conceptual theme

Appendix
- Designing high school math courses based on the Common Core State Standards

Implementation Resources
- The James B. Hunt Institute and CCSSO created a series of free video vignettes that explain the Standards in depth.
  
Implementation Resources

National PTA – Common Core Parent Guides
- Free resource
- Clear, grade-by-grade overviews of the standards in ELA and math
- Ways for parents to discuss the standards with their child and teachers
- www.pta.org/parentguides

Utah-specific Implementation Resources

Utah State Office of Education (USOE) resources
- http://www.schools.utah.gov/core/
- Implementation timeline
- Alignment documents by grade
- Curriculum guides (now have 6th grade math now)
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New Common Summative Assessments

Two assessment consortia
- Partnership for Readiness for College and Career (PARCC)
- SMARTER Balanced

New summative assessments used for accountability purposes in 2014-2015 school year
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)

Source: Center for K–12 Assessment & Performance Management at ETS
Aligning the Education System to College- and Career-Readiness

School and District Accountability

- **Accountability systems must change** to align with goal of college- and career-readiness for all students.
- In the absence of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization, the U.S. Department of Education invited states (on a voluntary basis) to apply for "ESEA flexibility."
- ESEA waivers must include:
  - Implementation of college- and career-ready standards and assessments
  - New school and district accountability systems
  - Teacher and leader evaluation
- Next **deadline to submit** waiver request: February 21, 2012
Questions and Discussion

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