

Common Core State Standards Initiative



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September 15, 2009

What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

- Joint effort between the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices in partnership with ACT, the College Board, and Achieve
- A significant and historic opportunity for states to collectively develop and adopt a core set of K-12 standards in mathematics and English language arts

Why is this important now?

- Disparate standards across states
- States are ready and able for collective action
- Global competition
- Today's jobs require different skills
- Supportive political climate

What momentum is there for the initiative?

- 48 states and 3 territories have signed on to the Common Core State Standards Initiative process

What will the common core standards look like?

- Fewer, clearer, and higher
- Inclusive of content and skills
- Internationally benchmarked
- Research and evidence based
- Accessible to students, parents, and the public

Why is this good for students, educators, & states?

- Prepares students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and careers
- Ensures consistent expectations regardless of student's zip code
- Provides educators clear, focused guideposts
- Offers economies of scale

How can this help change what happens in the classroom?

- Educators will have more time to focus on depth of understanding and richer units of study.
- Provides the opportunity for educators to tailor curricula and teaching methods to help all children reach the standards.
- Allows for more targeted, useful pre-service and professional development

How are the standards being developed?

- The standards will be based on research and evidence and benchmarked against high-performing states and countries.
- Levels of input, development, review, and validation are in place.
- Diverse group of experts and stakeholders involved.

What is the timeline?

- September 2009: release public draft of college and career ready standards for public input
- December 2009: release draft standards for grades K-12
- January 2010: K-12 standards finalized
- First Quarter 2010: states submit timeline and process for adoption

What would adoption look like?

- Voluntary and respects individual state contexts
- Common core must represent at least 85% of the state's standards
- States share timelines for adoption, which must be within three years

What happens after states adopt the standards?

- State collaboration on new, innovative common assessment systems
- Professional development for teachers
- Ongoing updates of the standards
- First step toward transforming education system

Who is supporting the initiative?

- American Association of School Administrators (AASA)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- Council of Great City Schools (CGCS)
- National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE)
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
- National Education Association (NEA)
- National Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- National School Board Association (NSBA)
- State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO)
- And others...

How can I get more information?

- Visit www.corestandards.org
- Subscribe to Common Core State Standards updates at
http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/newsletters/commoncoreupdates.html
- Email commonstandards@ccss.org