



Common Core Standards Work in Mathematics and English Language Arts

NRC Informational Meetings

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Common Core State Standards Initiative: What ?

- § An historic opportunity for states to collectively develop and adopt a core set of academic standards in English language arts and mathematics.
- § A state-led, not a federal effort
- § National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) initiated a state-led process, in partnership with Achieve, ACT, and the College Board.

History of Unsuccessful Efforts to Create National Standards and Assessments

- **America 2000 (1990)**
 - 15 American Achievement Exams
- **Model National Standards (1990's)**
 - Models developed but not consistently incorporated into state standards
- **Goals 2000 (1994)**
 - National Education Standards and Improvement Council – repealed before appointed
- **Voluntary National Tests (1997-99)**
 - Never developed

Common Core State Standards Initiative: Background

- § Achieve's American Diploma (ADP) Project's Benchmarks (2004) laid the ground work for the development of common core standards
- § ADP benchmarks identify the English and mathematics knowledge and skills high school graduates need for success in college and careers
- § States that aligned their standards with the ADP benchmarks moved toward a common core

Common Core State Standards Initiative: Background

- § Achieve documented state efforts in its report: *Out of Many, One: Toward Rigorous Common Core Standards From the Ground Up* (July 2008)
- § The report showed the feasibility of state-led, rather than federal, efforts in establishing common standards

Common Core State Standards Initiative: Goal

§ Create a common core of English language arts and mathematics standards that are...

- Internationally benchmarked
- Aligned with post-secondary and workplace expectations
- Include rigorous content and applications of knowledge
- Based on evidence – to the degree possible—in addition to professional judgment

Common Core State Standards Initiative: Why?

- § Currently, every state has its own set of academic standards, meaning public education students in each state are learning to different levels.
- § This initiative will allow equal access to an excellent education.
- § All students must be prepared to compete with not only their American peers, but also with students from around the world.
- § 48 states and the District of Columbia have committed to the process and development of voluntary common standards, with both the governor and chief education officer signing on.

What is College and Career Readiness?

§ A career provides a family-sustaining wage and pathways to advancement and requires postsecondary training or education.

§ Being *ready* for a career means that a high school graduate has the English and mathematics knowledge and skills needed to qualify for and succeed in the necessary postsecondary job training and/or education.

§ College includes any postsecondary education (at two- and four-year institutions) leading to a postsecondary credential.

§ Being *ready* for college means that a high school graduate has the English and mathematics knowledge and skills necessary to place into and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses (without remediation).

Common Core State Standards Initiative: How?

Phase I: College and Career-Ready Standards

§ *Standards Development Group* (Achieve, ACT, and the College Board) drafted the end of high school standards.

This work group was supported by a feedback/reaction team of nationally recognized content experts.

§ A *Validation Committee* of leading experts is being convened to review the process and substance of the common core college- and career-ready standards.

§ A *National Policy Forum* made up of national organizations has been created to share ideas, gather input and inform the initiative.

§ *States* also had the opportunity to review the standards throughout the process.

Common Core State Standards Initiative: How?

Phase II: K-12 Standards

§ *Standards Writing Team* is creating K-12 standards from the college- and career-ready anchors.

The writing team is comprised of experts, not organizational representatives, and is supported by an extended work group of additional experts and key stakeholders and a feedback/reaction team of nationally recognized content experts.

Content experts from 10-12 states are included on the teams

§ A *Validation Committee* of leading experts will review the K12 common core standards.

§ *All states* have the opportunity to review the standards throughout the process.

Common Core State Standards Initiative: When?

- § **September 21, 2009:** Draft college and career ready standards available for public review
- § **Mid-November, 2009:** First draft of the K-12 grade-by-grade standards available for public review
- § **Early December, 2009:** Public draft of the K-12 grade-by-grade standards for comments
- § **End of January, 2010:** Finalization of the Standards

College and Career-Ready Mathematics Standards

Mathematics Standards include Core Practices & Core Content

§ Six Core Practices (*habits of mind*)

§ Ten Core Content Standards, such as Number, Equations, Statistics

§ Content standards consists of **Core Concepts**, **Core Skills** and **Coherent Understandings** (what it means to have a coherent understanding of the content area)

College and Career-Ready Mathematics: Mathematical Practice Standards

Overview of the six Mathematical Core Practices

- § Attend to precision
- § Construct viable arguments
- § Make sense of complex problems and persevere in solving them
- § Look for structure
- § Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning
- § Make strategic decisions about the use of technological tools

College and Career-Ready Mathematics: Mathematical Content Standards

Overview of the ten Mathematical Content Standards

§ Number

§ Quantity

§ Expressions

§ Equations

§ Functions

§ Modeling

§ Shape

§ Coordinates

§ Probability

§ Statistics

After the Common Core State Standards Initiative: What Next?

- § Adoption of the common core state standards is voluntary for states.
- § Each state will follow its individual process for coalition-building and adoption.
- § Participating states will commit to adopt the common core state standards.

The common core will represent at least 85% of the state's standards in mathematics and English language arts.

- § There is an obvious role for assessment; some states will voluntarily come together to develop new, innovative, common assessments.

The federal government will offer grants to states to support the development of assessment aligned to the common core.

After the Adoption of the Common Core State Standards

- § The development of the common core state standards is just the first step. For these standards to reach the classroom and have an impact on classroom instruction and student learning, other steps are needed:
 - § Educators must be given resources, tools, and time to adjust classroom practice.
 - § Instructional materials need to be developed that align to the standards.
 - § Assessments will be developed to measure student progress.
 - § Federal, state, and district policies will need to be re-examined to ensure they support alignment of the common core – throughout the system – with student achievement.

How can I get more information?

1. Visit the Common Core State Standards Initiative website: corestandards.org
2. Visit Achieve's website: achieve.org