



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS TALKING POINTS

The Standards

- Today, we have different academic standards in every state, and too many states have standards that do not prepare student for college or careers.
- We need consistent and clear standards, so that all students understand what is expected of them, and teachers and parents know what they need to do to help students learn. Arithmetic and reading skills should be the same no matter where a child lives.
- The Common Core State Standards will provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.
- Consistent standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live, and allow states to more effectively help all students to succeed.
- With students, parents, and teachers all on the same page and working together toward shared goals, we can ensure that students make progress each year and graduate from school prepared to succeed and build a strong future for themselves and the country.
- The Common Core State Standards are designed to be relevant, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in both college and the workforce.
- When American students have the skills and knowledge needed in today's jobs, our communities will be positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.
- Some of the best practices in education are happening right now in our states.
- That's why the Standards are being developed by the states – not the federal government –and they will incorporate the best and highest of current state standards.
- And the best understanding of what works in the classroom comes from current teachers.
- That's why these standards will establish *what* students need to learn, but they will not dictate how teachers should teach. Instead, schools and teachers will decide how best to help students reach the standards.

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- The common core of state standards will enable participating states to:
 - Articulate to parents, teachers, and the general public expectations for students;
 - Align textbooks, digital media, and curricula to the internationally benchmarked standards;
 - Ensure professional development for educators is based on identified need and best practices;
 - Develop and implement an assessment system to measure student performance against the common core; and
 - Evaluate policy changes needed to help students and educators meet the common core standards expectations.

The Process

- The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort to establish consistent and clear education standards for English-language arts and mathematics so students will be prepared for success in today's world.
- The Initiative was launched in 2009 by state leaders through their membership in the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center).
- Both organizations believe that the states are best positioned to lead the process of establishing education standards that all states can voluntarily share.
- The process used to write the standards was designed to ensure that the standards were informed by
 - the best state and international standards;
 - evidence of what works in education;
 - the experience of teachers, content experts, states and leading thinkers; and
 - feedback from the general public.
- To write the standards, the NGA Center and CCSSO brought together content experts, teachers, researchers and others.
- The standards have been written in two documents:
 - college and career ready standards, which address what students are expected to learn when they have graduated from high school; and
 - K-12 standards, which address expectations for elementary through high school.
- The draft college and career ready standards were released for public comment in September 2009.
- The draft K-12 standards, which include state feedback, are available for public comment until April 2, 2010.

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- Once the public comment period for the K-12 standards closes, the NGA Center and CCSSO will review the comments and the work and feedback groups will review and incorporate the feedback appropriate.
- Next, the NGA Center and CCSSO will work with experts to ensure that the K-12 expectations are aligned with the college and career ready standards.
- At this point, we will have one document that includes the K-12 and the college and career ready standards.
- Finally, a validation committee of experts will review and certify that the standards meet their criteria for development.
- From there, each state that chooses to adopt will follow the process that their individual state uses to set their educational standards.