

Common Core State Standards Initiative

An Initiative of
the Council of Chief State School Officers and the
National Governors Association Center for Best
Practices

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Kids Summit*

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What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a significant and historic opportunity for states to collectively develop and adopt a core set of academic standards in mathematics and English language arts

Why is this important?

- 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 in the next state, but with students from around the world
- 48 states, DC, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have signed on to the Common Core State Standards Initiative led by the NGA Center and CCSSO
- This initiative will potentially affect 43.5 million students which is about 87% of the student population (Source: SchoolDataDirect.org; 2007)

Why is a common core of state standards good for students?

- It will help prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and careers
- Expectations will be consistent for all kids and not dependent on a student's zip code
- It will help students with transitions between states
- Clearer standards will help students understand what is expected of them and allow for more self-directed learning by students

Why is a common core of state standards good for parents?

- Helps parents understand exactly what students need to know and be able to do
- Helps parents support their children and educators by making expectations clear and goals high
- Provides equal access to a high quality education
- Provides opportunities to meaningfully engage parents

Why is a common core of state standards good for educators?

- Allows for more focused pre-service and professional development
- Assures that what is taught is aligned with assessments including formative, summative, and benchmarking
- Provides the opportunity for instructors to tailor curriculum and teaching methods
- Informs the development of a curriculum that promotes deep understanding for all children

Why is a common core of state standards good for states and districts?

- Allows states to align curricula to internationally benchmarked standards
- Allows states and districts to ensure professional development for educators is based on best practices
- Creates the opportunity for America to compete for high-wage, high-skill jobs in a knowledge-based economy
- Allows for the development of a common assessment
- Provides the opportunity to compare and evaluate policies that affect student achievement across states and districts
- Creates potential economies of scale around areas such as curriculum development and assessment

What will the common core standards look like?

- Fewer, clearer, and higher
- Aligned with college and work expectations
- Include rigorous content *and* application of knowledge through high-order skills
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
- Internationally benchmarked, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society
- Evidence and/or research based

Definition of College and Career Readiness

All students are prepared for success in *college* (2- or 4-year institutions) - earning a C or better in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses (e.g., English, mathematics, the sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities)

workforce training programs for *careers* that

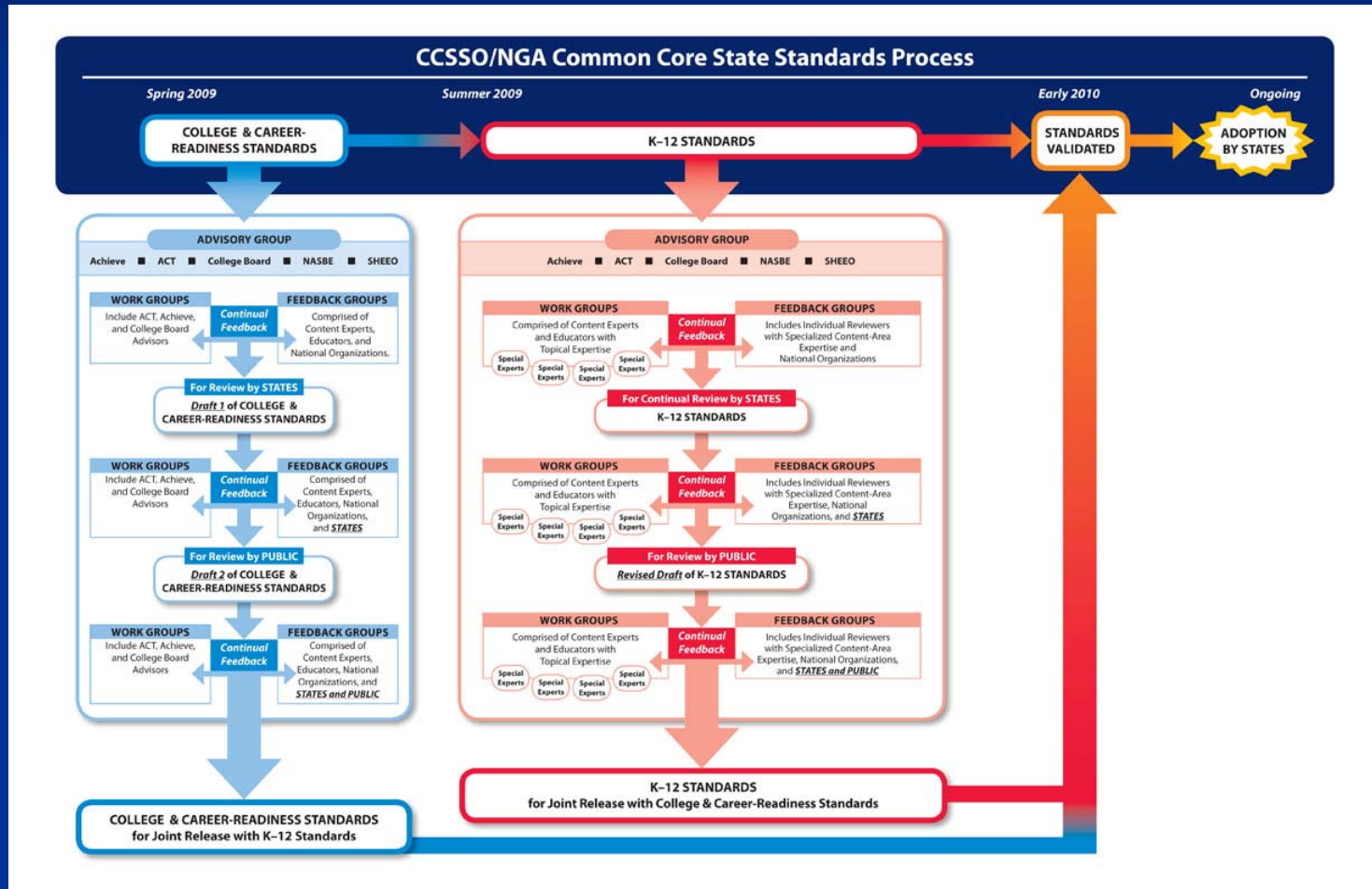
- Offer competitive, livable salaries above the poverty line
- Offer opportunities for career advancement
- Are in a growing or sustainable industry

What is being produced and when?

- September 2009: public release of draft college and career readiness standards
- March 2010: public release of draft standards for grades K-12
- March 2010: public comment period (feedback via www.corestandards.org)
- Early 2010: release of final college and career and K-12 standards

What does the process look like?

<http://www.corestandards.org/Files/CCSSIPProcess.pdf>



What does the process look like?

- An Advisory Group provides advice and guidance on the initiative
- A Standards Development Group is defining and writing the common core state standards
- An Expert Feedback Group informs the work of the Development Group and provides input and guidance as drafts of the standards are developed
- States and many organizations, including AFT, NEA, the Alliance for Excellent Education, the Business Roundtable, the Coalition for Student Achievement, the Hunt Institute, National Association of State Boards of Education, Council of Great City Schools, National Council of Teachers of English, National Council of Teachers of Math are providing input

Continued: What does the process look like?

- A National Forum on Common Standards shares ideas, gathers input, and informs the initiative
- Additional input sought through public comment
- A Validation Committee ensures the standards are research and evidence-based; this group is independent of the Standards Development Group

What happens after the common core standards are developed?

- Adoption of the common core state standards is voluntary for states
- Each state will follow its individual process for coalition-building and adoption
- States will be asked to share their timelines for adoption of the common core
- Adoption of the common core state means 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
- On-going and regular revisions and adjustments will be necessary

What happens after states adopt common core standards?

- The common core state standards are the first step in transforming our education system. For systemic change to occur:
 - 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?

- Visit the Common Core State Standards website: www.corestandards.org
- Subscribe to Common Core State Standards updates at www.ccsso.org or the NGA newsletter at join-nganews@talk.nga.org

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