The Common Core State Standards:
Moving beyond awareness to classroom implementation and assessment

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NEA Common Core Working Group
Washington, DC
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Bipartisan initiative of state leaders

- led by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and National Governors Association (NGA)
- developed K-12 standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
There is a gap between high school expectations for students and what students are expected to do in college/career.

- Among high school graduates, only half are academically prepared for postsecondary education (Greene & Winters, 2005).

Career-readiness and college-readiness levels are very similar.

K-12 standards were back-mapped from college and career expectations.
Remediation rates and costs are staggering
- As much as 40% of all students entering 4-year colleges need remediation in one or more courses
- As much as 63% in 2-year colleges

Degree attainment rates are disappointing
- Fewer than 42% of adults aged 25-34 hold college degrees
## Why Common Standards?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consistency</th>
<th>• Previously, every state had its own set of academic standards and different expectations of student performance.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>• Common standards can help create more equal access to an excellent education.</td>
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<td>Opportunity</td>
<td>• Students need the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for college and career in our global economy.</td>
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<td>Clarity</td>
<td>• Previous standards were “a mile wide and an inch deep.” These new standards are clear and coherent in order to help students, parents, and teachers understand what is expected.</td>
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<td>Economies of Scale</td>
<td>• Common standards create a foundation for districts and states to work collaboratively and achieve economies of scale.</td>
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45 states, DoDEA and D.C. have fully adopted the Common Core State Standards; MN has adopted only the ELA standards.
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.
## English Language Arts (ELA) Shifts

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Fiction</strong></td>
<td>• Building knowledge through content-rich non-fiction and informational texts in addition to literature</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence from the Text</strong></td>
<td>• Reading and writing are grounded in evidence from the text</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Complex Text &amp; Academic Vocabulary</strong></td>
<td>• Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary (words like “synthesize” and “correspond”)</td>
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# Math Shifts

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<th>Focus</th>
<th>Coherence</th>
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<td>• 2-4 concepts focused on deeply in each grade</td>
<td>• Concepts logically connected from one grade to the next and linked to other major topics within the grade</td>
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<td>• Fluency with arithmetic, application of knowledge to real world situations, and deep understanding of mathematical concepts</td>
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New Assessments

- Two state-led assessment consortia
  - Partnership for Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org)
  - Smarter Balanced [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)
- Federal Race to the Top (RTTT) grant of $350M +
- New summative assessments used for accountability purposes in 2014-2015 school year
What will the new tests be like?

- Computer-based
- Beyond multiple choice
- Measure what matters for college and career success
  - Depth of understanding and higher-order thinking skills
- Provide precise, actionable information
Implementing the Common Core
Professional Development
Curriculum & Instructional Materials
Public Awareness
Technology
Common Core Implementation
“Typical” State Implementation Timeline

2010-2011 School Year
• States adopt standards

2011-2012 School Year
• Administrator Awareness on Common Core

2012-2013 School Year
• Teacher Awareness on Common Core

2013-2014 School Year
• Standards Used in All Classrooms
• Professional development continues

2014-2015 School Year
• New Summative Assessments
• Professional development continues

Your state plan:
www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/The_Common_Core_State_Standards_Initiative.html
Implementation Occurring Now

- Professional development for teachers, principals, district staff, superintendents
  - Key shifts in the Common Core compared to current standards
  - Deeper information on big issues, such as text complexity and focus in mathematics on critical topics for each grade level
- Guidance to districts on selecting instructional materials and developing curricula aligned to the Common Core
- Suggestions on what to incorporate into instruction this school year and each subsequent year until common assessments in place
Key Implementation Topics for States

- **Instructional materials and curricula**: what you take away from what you’re teaching along with what you need to add.

- **Professional development**: beyond awareness of the standards – professional learning communities, ongoing, job-embedded professional development.

- **Instruction and assessments**: depth of understanding required of students.

- **Literacy in content areas**: challenges traditional role of teachers in all disciplines and secondary school structure.
The James B. Hunt Institute and CCSSO created a series of free video vignettes that explain the Standards in depth.

www.ccsso.org
National Implementation Resources

- National PTA – Common Core Parent Guide
  - [www.pta.org/parentguides](http://www.pta.org/parentguides)

- Council of Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps:

- Student Achievement Partners (Standards writers- includes lessons and publishers criteria and PD modules)
  - [www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org)

- Math Common Core Coalition
  - [www.mathccc.org](http://www.mathccc.org)

- New York State Common Core Website
  - [www.engageny.org](http://www.engageny.org)
Questions and Discussion

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www.ccsso.org
Read the Common Core: www.corestandards.org