

College and Career Readiness: *Strengthening Postsecondary Pathways with Common Core State Standards*

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September 29, 2012

College and Career Readiness: Anchor for the Common Core

- A gap exists between high school expectations for students and what students are expected to do in college and career.
 - Among high school graduates, only half are academically prepared for postsecondary education (Green & Winters, 2005).
- Career readiness and college-readiness levels are similar.
- K-12 standards were back-mapped from college and career expectations.

Why Common Standards?

Consistency

- Previously, every state had its own set of academic standards and different expectations of student performance.

Equity

- Common standards can help create more equal access to an excellent education.

Opportunity

- Students need the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for college and career in our global economy.

Clarity

- The new standards are clear and coherent in order to help students, parents, and teachers understand what is expected.

Economies of Scale

- Common standards create a foundation for districts and states to work collaboratively and achieve economies of scale.

NEA Involvement

- Partner – National Governors Association, Council of Chief State School Officers
- Teacher Reviewers
- NEA Common Core Working Group

English Language Arts (ELA) Shifts

Non-Fiction

- Building knowledge through content-rich non-fiction and informational texts in addition to literature

Evidence from the Text

- Reading and writing are grounded in evidence from the text

Complex Text & Academic Vocabulary

- Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary (words like “synthesize” and “correspond”)

Math Shifts

Focus

- 2-4 concepts focused on deeply in each grade

Coherence

- Concepts logically connected from one grade to the next and linked to other major topics within the grade

Rigor

- Fluency with arithmetic, application of knowledge to real world situations, and deep understanding of mathematical concepts

New Assessments

- Two state-led assessment consortia
 - Partnership for Readiness for College and Career (PARCC): www.parcconline.org
 - Smarter Balanced: www.smarterbalanced.org
 - Assessment Services Supporting ELs through Technology Systems (ASSETS):
<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/assets.html>
- Computer-based, beyond multiple-choice
- Measure what matters for college and career success

South Carolina Implementation Timeline

2010-2011
School Year

SCDE
*Planning,
Awareness*
CCSSO
*States adopt
standards*

2012-2013
School Year

SCDE
Transition Year
CCSSO
*Teacher
Awareness on
Common Core*

2014-2015
School Year

SCDE
Full Implementation
CCSSO

- New Summative Assessments
- Professional development

2011-2012
School Year

SCDE
Transition Year
CCSSO
*Administrator
Awareness on
Common Core*

2013-2014 School Year

SCDE
Bridge Year, CCSS used for instructional purposes
CCSSO

- Standards Used in All Classrooms
- Professional development continues

NEW: Common Career Technical Core

- High quality expectations of CTE, in alignment with college and career readiness efforts
- Encompasses programs of study
- Engaging public, partners, via Career Readiness Council
- Assessments talks ongoing

The Common Career Technical Core

Standards for

Career Ready Practice

- 12 practices with suggested indicators
- Positioned to be applied across the entire continuum of instruction
- Modeled after Common Core Standards for Math Practices

Common

Technical Core

- Expectations within Career Cluster and Pathways that frame a Program of Study
- Based on Validated Knowledge and Skills Statements
- Used to align expectations across states

Common Core State Standards Implementation & You

Currently, state efforts involve four critical areas:
professional development, public awareness,
curriculum & instruction, and technology

1. What do you need to know about the standards?
2. Describe professional development opportunities?
3. What can NEA do to help?
4. What are the challenges and opportunities presented by standards?

Implementation Resources

South Carolina Standards

www.ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/190/

Common Core State Standards FAQ

www.corestandards.org/frequently-asked-questions

NEA Common Core State Standards

www.nea.org/home/46653.htm

Council of Chief State School Officers

www.ccsso.org

Coalition for College and Career Ready America

www.collegeandcareerreadyamerica.org/

National PTA – Common Core Parent Guide

www.pta.org/parentguides

Student Achievement Partners (lessons, PD modules)

www.achievethecore.org

Thank you 😊

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