



# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE

August 2010

# Overview of the Initiative



State-led and developed common core standards for K-12 in English/language arts and mathematics

Focus on learning expectations for students, not how students get there.

# Why Now?



- Disparate standards across states
- Student mobility
- Global competition
- Today's jobs require different skills

## Why is This Important for Students, Teachers, and Parents?



- Prepares students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in **college and work**
- Ensures **consistent expectations** regardless of a student's zip code
- Provides educators, parents, and students with **clear, focused guideposts**

## What Momentum is There for the Initiative?



48 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories signed on to the Common Core State Standards Initiative

# Criteria for the Standards



- 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
- Based on evidence and research

# Standards Development Process



- College and career readiness standards developed in summer 2009
- Based on the college and career readiness standards, K-12 learning progressions developed
- Multiple rounds of feedback from states, teachers, and feedback group and validation committee.
- Groups representing English language learners and students with disabilities were instrumental in developing the ELL and students with disabilities statements in the introduction to the standards.
- Public comment period on K-12 standards ended April 2.
- Final revisions to standards taking place now.

# ELA Standards Advances



- Text complexity
- Balance of literature and informational texts
- Direct link to college and work readiness
- Literacy standards for science and social studies
- Clear vertical progressions across grades

# Math Standards Advances



- Focus in early grades on number (arithmetic and operations) to build a solid foundation in math
- Evened out pace across the grades
- High school math focus on *using* math and solving messy problems, similar to what would see in the real world
- Problem-solving and communication emphasized

# Adoption



- State adopts 100% of the common core K-12 standards in ELA and mathematics (word for word), with option of adding up to an additional 15% of standards on top of the core.
- A state will have adopted when the standards authorizing body within the state has taken formal action to adopt and implement the common core.
- States are responsible for demonstrating that they have adhered to this definition of adoption.
- 36 States have adopted the Common Core Standards

# Common Standards: The First Step



Standards are essential, but insufficient. Along with standards,

- Educators must be given *resources, tools, and time* to adjust classroom practice.
- *Instructional materials* needed that align to the standards.
- *Assessments* must be developed to measure student progress.
- Federal, state, and district *policies* will need to be reexamined to ensure they support alignment of the common core state standards with student achievement.

# More Information



- Visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)
- Sign up for Common Core State Standards updates:  
[www.ccsso.org/whats\\_new/newsletters/commoncoreupdates.html](http://www.ccsso.org/whats_new/newsletters/commoncoreupdates.html)