



From citizenship to public service.

Common Core State Standards

Overview of the Common Core State Standards Initiative

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led, voluntary effort to establish a single set of clear educational standards for English-language arts and mathematics that states can share and voluntarily adopt. The Standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared for college, work, and success in the global economy. 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) have developed a common core of state standards with the assistance of content specialists and education experts.

Why are the Standards important?

To maintain America's competitive edge, we need all of our students to be well prepared and ready to compete with not only their American peers but with students from around the world. These Standards are a first step toward ensuring our children are getting the education they deserve. The Standards will provide a venue for providing *all* students with the education they need to succeed in college and work.

Developing these Standards will not narrow the curriculum, rather they will allow teachers to develop and create lesson plans that will help students master fundamental skills in English-language arts and mathematics. These two subjects are foundational skills which students build skill sets in other subject areas and are also subjects most frequently assessed for accountability purposes. The high-quality common standards can ensure that all students, regardless of zip code, income, race or ethnicity, will be taught to and held to the same, high standards that are aligned to college and work expectations.

How NALEO members can become involved in the Standards

- Contact your State Board of Education
- Become an active leader in the adoption and implementation of the Standards
- For additional information on the Common Cores State Standards, please reference the following websites:

Common Core State Standards Initiative: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Council of Chief State Schools Officers: <http://www.ccsso.org/>

National Governors Association: <http://www.nga.org/>

For information on how you can get involved, please contact Ms. Joyce Roys, Program Manager of Constituency Services at (213) 747-7606, ext. 4459 or via email at jroys@naleo.org.