

An Introduction to Ohio's New Learning Standards

Presented by: The Ohio Common Core State Standards Coalition

November 12th 2013

Higher Standards Are Necessary

- 31% of Ohio grads (class of 2013) who took the ACT met *none* of the college-ready benchmarks, indicating they will likely struggle in entry-level college courses.

41%

of students

need remedial coursework in college.
That's why higher standards are needed.

—Ohio Board of Regents



Higher Standards Are Necessary

- More than one in five high school graduates do not meet the minimum academic standard required for Army enlistment, as measured by the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT).

- Education Trust

93%
of American
employers

rate critical thinking and problem solving as more important than a candidate's college major.

—Association of American Colleges & Universities



GOAL STUDENT
SUCCESS

BECAUSE OUR STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Higher Standards Are Necessary

- Eighty-three percent of Ohio fourth graders passed the state's reading exam in 2011. That same year, just twenty-seven percent passed the National Assessment of Educational Progress reading test (aka, The Nation's Report Card).
- Seventy-eight percent of Ohio fourth graders passed the state's mathematics exam in 2011. That same year, just thirty-eight percent passed the National Assessment of Educational Progress mathematics test.

GOAL STUDENT
SUCCESS

BECAUSE OUR STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Ohio: Standards & Accountability

- “If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. As it stands, we have allowed this to happen to ourselves.” –*A Nation at Risk, 1983*
- Ohio moved toward statewide testing in the late 1980s, early 1990s: Fourth-grade proficiency test and eighth-grade proficiency test.
- Initial school report cards were issued in the 1990s.

GOAL STUDENT
SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

The History of Standards and the Common Core

- Senate Bill 1 (2001) first required Ohio to develop and adopt academic content standards, along with tests aligned to them.
- House Bill 1 (2009) required Ohio to update and revise our academic content standards across all subjects.
- (2010) after input from Ohio teachers and education stakeholders, the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core standards in mathematics and English Language Arts and Ohio-developed standards in science and social studies.



GOAL STUDENT
SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Common Core State Standards Initiative

- Grew out of discussions among the nation's governors in 2006 and 2007 about the need for rigorous, comparable expectations for all students in key subjects like reading and math.
 - The definition of "proficiency" varied widely from state to state.
- The new standards were developed by the Council of Chief State School Officers and National Governors Association.
- Forty-four states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Department of Defense Schools have voluntarily adopted the standards.



Ohio schools have been working for several years to get ready to teach the new standards. This means that students will reach our new goals sooner—a positive outcome for all Ohioans.



Ohio's Implementation

- Many districts have been:
 - Training teachers about the new standards
 - Developing local curriculum aligned to the standards
 - Informing and engaging parents about the changes
- The standards will be fully implemented statewide by the fall 2014.



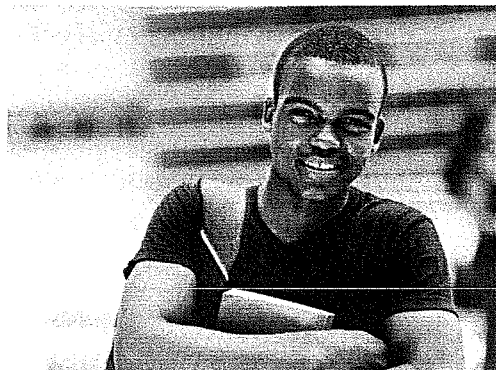
What Are Academic Content Standards?



...are learning goals for the knowledge and skills that all young Ohioans need to succeed in our global economy.

Standards spell out expectations of *what students should know and be able to do* across grades and subjects.

Local schools and teachers will continue to decide the curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials that will help students learn best.



The Common Core Sets Higher Expectations

Key differences underscoring the improvement in Ohio's standards

- Fewer standards enabling teachers to do a much more comprehensive treatment of the standards before moving on to the next.
- Focus and concentrate on critical thinking and problem solving rather than rote memorization.
- Afford teachers a significant amount of flexibility and provide them with an opportunity to be innovative and creative in the classroom.

The Common Core Sets Higher Expectations

Instructional shifts within the Common Core

English Language Arts

- Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from the text.
- Regular practice with complex text and its academic language.
- Emphasis on informational texts, primary sources, and technical manuals.

Mathematics

- Connect learning across grade levels; equip students with the necessary foundations and building blocks to learn more complex subjects and material.
- Focus strongly where the Standards focus.
- Rigor in conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application.

GOAL  STUDENT
SUCCESS
BECAUSE OF ICS STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Example: Academic Content Standards

Math: Know number names and the count sequence (Kindergarten)

1. Count to 100 by ones and by tens.
2. Count forward beginning from a given number within the known sequence (instead of having to begin at 1).

Math: Write and interpret numerical expressions (Fourth Grade)

1. Use parentheses, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluate expressions with these symbols.
2. Write simple expressions that record calculations with numbers, and interpret numerical expressions without evaluating them. *For example, express the calculation "add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2" as $2 \times (8 + 7)$. Recognize that $3 \times (18932 + 921)$ is three times as large as $18932 + 921$, without having to calculate the indicated sum or product.*
3. And throughout K-12, our children will be required to show their work as well as the answer, and to apply mathematical principles to real world situations.

GOAL  STUDENT
SUCCESS
BECAUSE OF ICS STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Example: Academic Content Standards

Reading: Key Ideas and Details (Fourth Grade)

1. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
2. Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
3. Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

-Ohio Department of Education



Example: Academic Content Standards

Reading: Craft and Structure (Eighth Grade)

1. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
2. Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
3. Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

- Ohio Department of Education



Why Common Core? It makes sense to educators.

7 in 10

Ohio district superintendents believe the Common Core State Standards will lead to “fundamental improvement” in Ohio’s K-12 education.

—Thomas B. Fordham Institute

- In spring 2013, nearly one-quarter of Ohio school districts reported that their curricula were fully aligned to the Common Core; the remainder indicated that the work was well underway.

—Thomas B. Fordham Institute

- The American Federation of Teachers reports that 75 percent of its members support the Common Core.

GOAL  STUDENT SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

The Coalition

- Formed approximately six months ago from a grant by the Helmsley Foundation.
- Ensures Ohio remains a Common Core State in English language arts and mathematics and that these new standards are implemented in an efficient, effective, and timely manner.
- United with one voice because higher expectations are necessary if Ohio’s children are going to enjoy success in college, career, and life.

GOAL  STUDENT SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

The Coalition (Continued)

Brings together partners from education, public policy, business, civic and philanthropic entities.

	Education	Business, Community & Philanthropy	
Cincinnati Public Schools	Inter-University Council of Ohio	Battelle Memorial Institute	KnowledgeWorks
Cleveland Metropolitan School District	Ohio Association of Community Colleges	Cleveland Foundation	Learn to Earn Dayton
Coalition of Rural & Appalachian Schools	Ohio Board of Regents	Columbus Partnership	Ohio Business Roundtable
REACHhigher	Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators	Columbus Urban League	Philanthropy Ohio
Ohio Assoc. of Secondary School Adm.	Ohio Assoc. of Supervision, Curriculum and Dev.	Thomas B. Fordham Institute	Strive Partnership
Ohio Department of Education	Ohio Education Association	GAR Foundation	StudentsFirst Ohio
Ohio Federation of Teachers	Ohio Parent Teacher Association	GE Foundation	Urban League of Greater Cleveland
Ohio School Boards Association	Ohio STEM Learning Network	KidsOhio.org	Urban League of Southwestern Ohio

GOAL STUDENT SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

The Coalition's Activities: Advocacy and Communication

- Holding one-on-one and targeted group meetings with policy makers.
- Developing a comprehensive briefing book for all members of the State Legislature, so they can better respond to constituent criticism of the Common Core.
- Presenting at town halls and PTA meetings focused on the Common Core, to educate parents and the general public on the benefits of these standards.
- Providing members of our coalition with a set of collaterals and materials (including a video, brochure, poster, talking points, a comprehensive set of FAQs, etc.) that will enable them to educate their members on the Common Core. It is important to provide those who are in the most frequent contact with teachers and parents with a set of tools to advocate for these standards.
- Developing a website and a weekly newsletter. The public will use this website to learn about these standards, and our coalition members will send out the newsletter to their members and constituencies to help keep them informed and engaged as implementation proceeds.

GOAL STUDENT SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Political Context

- Faced opposition since its inception because of a growing chorus of voices that have coalesced around several members of the State Legislature.
- Concerned that the implementation of the Common Core State Standards:
 - a. Undermines local control.
 - b. Invades our children's and families' privacy.
 - c. Constitutes federal overreaching.
- Worked over the past six months on advocacy -- refuting the above claims, and educating political leaders about the importance of the Common Core State Standards.

GOAL STUDENT
SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Common Core Related Legislation

- HB 237, introduced by Representative Thompson, would:
 - Withdraw Ohio from the Common Core Standards Initiative.
 - Prohibit the implementation of any assessments aligned to the Common Core standards, including the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).
- HB 237 will receive its second hearing in the House Education Committee on November 20th at 5PM.
- HB 181, introduced by Representative Brenner, would prohibit submission of a student's personal identifiable information to the federal government without direct authorization of the local school board.

GOAL STUDENT
SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST

Misconceptions vs. Fact

Freedom Works "Top 10 Reasons to Oppose Common Core"

1. **Common Core is a Federal Takeover of Education.** The ultimate goal of Common Core is to have every district follow the same national standards. This is a failed educational approach that will undermine educational quality and choice. States and local communities know better how to design standards based on their students and parents' needs than Washington bureaucrats.
2. **Common Core is Bad for Parents.** Parents will not have a say in their child's education under Common Core. They will not be able to suggest changes to their local school's standards or enroll their child in another public school with better standards. Common Core would limit parental choice and shut their voices out of their child's education.
3. **Common Core is Bad for Teachers.** Teachers would have little control over their classrooms under Common Core. They will be forced to comply with standards decided upon by federal bureaucrat. This leaves little to no room for teachers to innovate to meet the unique needs of their students.
4. **Common Core is Bad for Taxpayers.** Common Core has a hefty price tag that will be paid by taxpayers in states. Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction estimates that Common Core will cost the state \$300 million.
5. **Common Core is Bad for Students.** Common Core is a one-size-fits-all education policy that assumes every student learns exactly the same. Top down and centrally controlled standards will hurt students' creativity and learning. Good education policy realizes that all students have different learning styles, preferences, and paces.

BUT HERE ARE THE FACTS

Standards provide guidance to teachers on the minimal levels of education necessary for kids to participate successfully in the affairs and economy of our state and nation. Ohio retains *complete* control over its academic content standards and can change them at any time, including Common Core.

Ohio's tradition of local control doesn't change under Ohio's New Learning Standards. Any school district can establish standards that are stronger than what the state mandates. These just represent minimums in return for state funding of education. Ohio has a robust system of school choice that gives parents a variety of options.

This is perhaps the biggest fallacy of Common Core. With fewer, clearer standards to teach, educators can spend more time ensuring that every student understands the material and challenging students who are more advanced. Local teachers will still make decisions about curriculum, text books, and instructional materials.

Under Common Core taxpayers will have a clear picture of return on investment for education funding based on expectations that are rigorous and challenging for children.

Common Core is not an educational policy. Common Core is a listing of knowledge and skills that are necessary for young people to succeed in our modern world. A reading of the standards shows they place new emphasis on creativity, and that teachers have broad latitude to accommodate the learning styles, preferences, and paces of children.



Misconceptions vs. Fact (cont'd)

Freedom Works "Top 10 Reasons to Oppose Common Core"

6. **Common Core Violates Privacy.** The Race to the Top Grants associated with Common Core violates privacy by "data mining" information about students that will follow them the rest of their lives. The information collected is more than just test scores and academic progress. Common Core will track information on religious practices, political beliefs, "sex behaviors and attitudes," and more.
7. **Common Core Resembles Failed No Child Left Behind Program.** A main criticism of the failed No Child Left Behind program is that teachers "teach the test." This means that students are memorizing rather than learning and critical thinking about information. Common Core would resemble No Child Left Behind by requiring students to take national standardized tests to measure their progress.
8. **Common Core is Unconstitutional.** The federal government should not control education. Since education is not specifically listed in the Constitution, the authority over education should be left to the states and the people. This allows localities from New York City to rural Alabama to design unique curriculums that are best for their students.
9. **Common Core Will Require Some States to Move Backwards.** Some states have advanced standards that are designed with students and parents in mind. Sandra Stotsky, a professor at the University of Arkansas, who served on the committee to validate Common Core standards said, "The standards dumb American education down by about two grades worth."
10. **Common Core is a Failed Education Approach.** Washington has tried one-size-fits-all education approaches time and time again. Centralized education programs have not worked and will never work. The quality of education has only declined over the past few decades. The solution is to get the federal government out of education.

BUT HERE ARE THE FACTS

It is illegal in Ohio to collect or store this kind of information; the General Assembly would have to change data privacy laws to make it legal. Any information tying students to their data cannot be legally shared or released to anyone, including the federal government, without parental consent.

The move to improve Ohio's standards, including adopting Common Core, fixes a key problem with No Child Left Behind by raising the floor of expectations for our schools, teachers, and students.

Common Core is not federal control of education. By Ohio law, the **State Board adopts standards and local district boards of education each** adopt their own local curriculum and make all decisions about textbooks and instructional resources—just as they did before.

Common Core is not required. In a few states, none of which is Ohio, the existing standards were better than Common Core. Ohio's New Learning Standards are more challenging than our former standards and focus on more critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

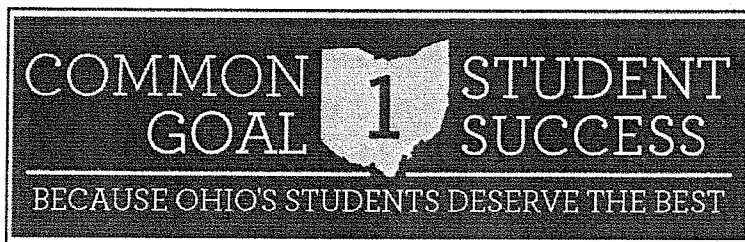
Common Core is not a product of the federal government. It is not a centralized education program. It is a list of expectations of what our kids ought to know and be able to do. States have complete control from that point forward in the educational process.



What You Can Do to Help?

- Send letters to state representatives supporting Ohio's New Learning Standards, including the Common Core standards
- Support implementation at the local level – so many new initiatives being introduced
 - Ohio's New Learning Standards
 - Third Grade Reading Guarantee
 - Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems
 - New assessments and technology requirements
 - A-F report cards
 - Straight A Fund
- Communicate to parents and the public about the importance of these standards
- Build awareness, understanding, and support for the new standards and how they will improve success for all Ohioans.
- Let us know what you as school board members and educators need (materials, support, communications) to successfully adopt these standards across Ohio.
- Join our coalition. If you or your organization would like to join the coalition or offer feedback, contact Lisa Gray at lisagray@lgaconsult.com

GOAL STUDENT
SUCCESS
BECAUSE OHIO'S STUDENTS DESERVE THE BEST



Thank You!
