

Common Core State Standards

December 2011

<p>What is the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative?</p>	<p>The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led initiative to develop a set of kindergarten through grade 12 education standards in English/language arts and mathematics. The standards would serve as a national foundation for states to adopt and implement. Currently, education standards are developed and implemented on a state-by-state basis. The Maryland State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in June 2010.</p>
<p>Who is part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative?</p>	<p>In a collaborative effort, 48 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia committed to developing a common core of state standards in English/language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. This effort has been coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers with input from ACT, College Board, Achieve, Inc., NASBE, and State Higher Education Executive Officers.</p>
<p>Why do we need common core standards?</p>	<p>Common core standards will ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. Common standards will help ensure students are receiving a high quality education consistently from school to school and state to state and will provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states.</p>
<p>What content areas and grade levels are included in the standards initiative?</p>	<p>Two sets of education standards span K-12. The English/language arts and mathematics standards are for grades K-12. Research from the early childhood and higher education communities have also informed the development of the standards. Maryland includes pre-K in the State Curriculum has expanded the Common Core State Standards to include pre-K. English/language arts and math were chosen first for common core standards because these subjects are skills upon which students build skill sets in other subject areas, and they are most frequently assessed for accountability purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English/language arts standards can be found at http://corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards. <p>Within these are literacy standards for history and social studies, and sciences and technical subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics standards can be found at http://corestandards.org/the-standards/mathematics/. <p>Expectations for college and career-readiness in reading and writing are defined and contained in the English/language arts standards. These expectations focus on the knowledge and skills students will need upon high school graduation to succeed in credit-bearing college courses and entry-level workforce jobs or training programs.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(More)</p>

Who was involved in developing the standards?	<p>Development was conducted in three phases by groups that included teachers, parents, administrators and educational experts, as well as select governors and state school officers. Teachers have been a critical voice in developing the standards and teachers' organizations, among other national organizations, have been instrumental in bringing together teachers to provide specific, constructive feedback on the standards. A Standards Development Workgroup made initial determination of what standards to include and wrote a draft document. A Feedback Group provided research-based feedback on the draft documents, and a Validation Committee reviewed and verified that the standards met criteria.</p>
What were the criteria used to develop the standards?	<p>The standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are aligned with college and work expectations • Are clear, understandable and consistent • Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills • Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards • Are informed by other top performing countries so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society • Are evidenced-based.
How will the standards be different from what Maryland teachers currently use in the classroom?	<p>Maryland education standards, the State Curriculum, are already very strong and have been used in the classroom for several years. Standards do not tell teachers how to teach, but help them determine the knowledge and skills students should have so that teachers can build the best lessons and environments for their classrooms. Standards also help students and parents by setting clear and realistic goals for success. Joining the CCSS Initiative provides the opportunity to work with educators across the country to raise the quality of education for all students, regardless of where they live. Through shared experiences and knowledge, Maryland educators will become part of a national community, working toward preparing students to compete with their national and international peers, both in college and in the workplace.</p>
Will assessments be developed to the standards?	<p>There will not be a single, nationwide assessment developed for the CCSS Initiative. However, states are working together in consortiums to pool resources and expertise to develop assessments based on the standards. Maryland is a governing state with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers consortium. Assessment development will take a number of years to develop, validate, and pilot. Final assessments will not be available until 2014-15.</p>
When will the Common Core State Standards be implemented in Maryland?	<p>The State Board of Education formally adopted CCSS in June 2010. Over the next year, educators from across the state will review and align CCSS with the Maryland State Curriculum Standards. A draft of the CCSC will be presented to the State Board for review and acceptance by June 2011. Following acceptance, professional development will begin for educators across the state. Full implementation will occur in 2013-14.</p>
Where can I find more information?	<p>More information can be found at www.corestandards.org or www.MarylandPublicSchools.org.</p>

For more information, call 410.767.0600 (Baltimore area) or 1.888.246.0016 (toll free) or visit our website at MarylandPublicSchools.org

Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201