

## THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

### RESOLUTION ON COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

#### Resolution Summary

Governors and state commissioners of education from 48 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia have committed to developing a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

The standards, developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, seek to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce. The NGA Center and CCSSO have received feedback from national organizations representing, but not limited to, teachers, postsecondary education (including community colleges), civil rights groups, English language learners, and students with disabilities.

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. States will be asked to adopt the Common Core State Standards in their entirety and the core must represent at least 85% of the state's standards in English language arts and mathematics, lending 15% above and beyond the common core as they are written to state discretion. These standards are aligned with college and work expectations; clear, understandable and consistent; include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher order skills; build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards; informed by other top performing countries so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and evidence-based. The Common Core State Standards is a state-led effort to establish consistent and clear education standards for English-language arts and mathematics so students will be prepared for success in today's world.

#### Additional Resources

- Common Core State Standards Initiative:  
<http://www.corestandards.org/>  
[http://www.ccsso.org/federal\\_programs/13286.cfm](http://www.ccsso.org/federal_programs/13286.cfm)  
[http://www.pta.org/common\\_core\\_state\\_standards.asp](http://www.pta.org/common_core_state_standards.asp)  
<http://www.hunt-institute.org/knowledge-library/articles/2010-4-28/background-information-on-common-core-standards/>

## Management Directives

- **Management Directive #1:** CSG will promote efforts to educate elected and appointed officials on the Common Core State Standards Initiative and provide an opportunity for collaboration between the legislative and executive branches of state government as the adoption process moves forward.
  
- **Management Directive #2:** CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's website and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

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**WHEREAS,** educational standards help teachers ensure that their students have the skills and knowledge needed to be successful by providing clear goals for student learning;

**WHEREAS,** standards ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. Common standards will help ensure that students are receiving a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state;

**WHEREAS,** common standards will provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve our ability to best serve the needs of the students;

**WHEREAS,** standards also help students and parents by setting clear and realistic goals for success. Standards are a first step, a key building block, in providing our young people with a high-quality education that will prepare them for success in college and work. Standards are not the only strategy that is needed for student success, but they provide an accessible roadmap for students, educators and parents;

**WHEREAS,** legislators will have a significant role to play in key components related to common core state standards, including assessment, improving pre-service teacher education programs and crating data systems to determine which students are making gains; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a necessity to increase the number of young people who earn a postsecondary degree or certificate with value in the marketplace.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,** that The Council of State Governments encourages state policymakers to gain information about the common core state standards, increase their awareness on what implications the standards have for their state and ensure collaboration with their state Board of Education and state-level department of instruction as the initiative unfolds.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ Day of May 2010 at the Economic Summit of the States in New York, New York.

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Gov. Mike Rounds, South Dakota  
2010 CSG President

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Sen. David Williams, Kentucky  
2010 CSG Chair