

Common Core State Standards – An Overview

Adoption of the Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards have been developed and voluntarily adopted by forty-five states, including the District of Columbia, four territories and the Department of Defense. The Florida State Board of Education adopted the Common Core in July of 2010. Our shared goal is to ensure Florida's students are well-prepared to compete for jobs and college admissions in today's global marketplace.

The Common Core State Standards were developed with tremendous input from educators across the country. The standards focus on critical thinking and analysis rather than rote memorization and "teaching to the test."

Relevance to Students

A major component of the Common Core State Standards focuses the learning atmosphere on its relevance to students. By providing concrete examples and expectations for student achievement, students gain a deeper understanding of the most important concepts they need to be successful in life. Just as crucial, the standards empower teachers and provide flexibility to develop more creative content in their classroom at the local level.

Common Core State Standards will allow us to innovate alongside every other state choosing to adopt the standards. This will give state leaders a much more accurate measure of how students learn relative to their national and international peers.

Standards created with tremendous public input

The Council for Chief State School Officers and the National Governor's Association led the initiative and public feedback was actively solicited from across Florida. Teachers, education professionals, families, businesses, lawmakers and others all have had input into creating a set of world-class standards.

More local decision-making

There are fewer standards in Florida under Common Core, but they require a higher level of mastery. This means local school and district leaders will have the authority to find the best way to individualize learning and meet their students' needs.

Assessing College and Career Readiness

Because the vast majority of states chose to adopt the Common Core State Standards, we will have the ability to compare and measure our success against other states like never before. In order to do this we must build a world class assessment system that's aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, Florida will replace portions of the FCAT with a new assessment aligned to the Common Core State Standards. This assessment will be tougher and require a higher level of academic mastery – it will challenge Florida's students in new ways.

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We all believe that when a student leaves high school they should be prepared to pass any college entrance exam and find a good paying job. Florida's new assessment will more accurately measure whether students understand the concepts they need to be successful in life.

Greater flexibility for teachers

Teachers will have more flexibility to use their training and expertise to teach concepts and analytical thinking rather than an inflexible set of points to be memorized. There will be greater freedom to teach individualized material. English/language arts materials could pertain to America's founding documents, fundamental American literature and Shakespeare. Math requirements include mastery of basic skills but with an emphasis on how these skills are applied in the real-world.

Privacy of student information remains the same

Nothing related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards will result in any changes to sharing private student information and data. Common Core State Standards will not erode students' privacy rights or allow the federal government to inappropriately "track" students.

Unparalleled support from all sectors of Florida

Supporters of the Common Core State Standards include the National Education Association, the Florida Education Association, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and many other education, legislative, and business groups within our state.