

Top 10 Common Core Facts

- 1. Why do we need new standards?** Not every student in the United States has access to a great public school. Not every school is offering its students the rigorous coursework necessary to transition smoothly to postsecondary educational options without remediation. Graduation rates are improving incrementally, but it is clear that gaps that fall along ethnic and racial lines still persist and that the enduring dropout rates cannot persist if this country is going to be globally competitive in the future
- 2. Who?** States developed the common core state standards (CCSS) together and most voluntarily adopted them
- 3. How many?** To date, 45 states plus the District of Columbia have adopted the CCSS
- 4. What's covered?** Mathematics and English language arts and literacy (ELA), with science coming soon
- 5. When?** States must implement the mathematics and ELA common core standards by 2013-14 school year
- 6. What's different about these standards?** They are fewer in number, clearer, encompass broad academic goals, and designed to prepare students for a variety of postsecondary experiences. The CCSS also are more challenging than most of the current state standards and provide clarity and consistency about what is expected of students
- 7. Will there be new tests?** Yes, states must use the related mathematics and ELA assessments by the 2014-2015 school year
- 8. Will these tests be different?** Yes, the 'next generation assessments' will provide better and more timely and useable feedback to students, parents, and educators
- 9. Will these standards tell teachers how to teach?** No, they will provide teachers flexibility to use professional judgment to design instruction for student success
- 10. What about students with disabilities and English language learners?** The CCSS provide an historic opportunity to improve access to rigorous academic content standards for ALL students. For students with disabilities and English language learners to meet the standards and fully demonstrate their knowledge and skills, their instruction and assessments must incorporate necessary supports and accommodations

www.nea.org/commoncore



COMMON CORE PLUS COMMONSENSE: Let's Get This Right

DEMAND A PLAN: Forty-five states have adopted common standards for reading and math. These standards have the potential to offer every student in America access to the same high standards that promote deep thinking and will help our students graduate prepared for college and careers. But the implementation of these standards and the assessments that are tied to them has to be done right! NEA encourages parents and community leaders to collaborate with NEA and be informed advocates so all kids can benefit from the opportunity presented by the common core state standards.

We call on parents, students, educators, and community members to make sure policymakers and elected officials:

FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS FOR KIDS

1. Students should be assessed based on what they are actually taught in class.
2. Assessments must be used to improve instruction and provide meaningful feedback for students, parents, and educators
3. All kids must have access to great public schools that offer well-rounded coursework, high expectations of all students, 21st century standards, needed technology, safe environments, and class sizes that allow every student individualized attention

ENSURE HIGH STANDARDS WITH COMMON-SENSE ACCOUNTABILITY

4. We need to develop implementation plans to transition to common core state standards and better assessments, and these plans must be fair to students and understandable to families
5. Implementation advisory committees must include the voices of students, parents, and educators
6. States and districts must provide flexibility during the two-year transition so students can focus on learning and educators can focus on real teaching rather than focusing on the high-stakes consequences of a test which may not be aligned to the standards
7. States should modify their accountability systems to include multiple, appropriate and valid measures of student learning rather than focusing on high-stakes standardized tests

ENSURE EQUITY OF OPPORTUNITY

8. Districts should provide students the support they need from school counselors, nurses, reading specialists, and quality afterschool programs instead of spending so much on test preparation.
9. All educators must have the time and tools they need to strengthen their instruction
10. A single test score should never determine the future of any student, educator, or school

www.nea.org/commoncore



High Standards. Commonsense Accountability. Equity of Opportunity for Every Student.

www.nea.org/commoncore

