



MICHIGAN COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

As business leaders, educators, advocates, and parents we understand that in order for students to compete in a global economy, Michigan needs consistent standards that will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live. Michigan Common Core Standards are grounded in evidence, benchmarked against peers, and focused on ensuring that students graduate career and college ready.

BACKGROUND

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS), adopted by 46 states, are a set of K-12 academic standards in Mathematics and English language arts that will ensure that all students have the academic knowledge and skills they need to succeed after high school.

In the 2010-2011 school year, Michigan began implementing the Common Core State Standards by conducting an alignment study and gap analysis, providing professional development and support for instruction, and by working with other adopting states to develop an aligned assessment system. To date, Michigan school districts have started to align Common Core State Standards with their curricula. Michigan public schools have spent a significant amount of resources in preparing for, developing and implementing these measures.

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMON CORE

Development of the Common Core. The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA) Center have led the Common Core State Standards development process. Michigan was actively engaged in this process, in partnership with a significant number of states across the country.

The CCSS were created by states for states and included the professional input of practitioners, content experts, teachers, researchers, higher education and business leaders. The federal government was *not* involved in the development of the standards.

HIGHLIGHTS:

By States, For States. The CCSS were created by states for states and included professional input of practitioners, content experts, teachers, researchers, higher education and business leaders.

Local Control. The State of Michigan and local school districts will continue to decide *what* teachers should teach and *how* students should learn.

Clear Expectations. Outcomes improve when students, parents and teachers are on the same page working together toward shared goals.

Collaborative Success. To date, 46 states have voluntarily adopted CCSS. Common standards will provide a greater opportunity for sharing experiences and best practices both within states and across the country.

Consistent Standards. Common Core Standards are benchmarks aimed to bring more consistency and uniformity to what students learn at each grade level from one state to another so that all students in the United States are better prepared to compete and collaborate in the 21st Century global economy.

Evidenced Based. The Standards are grounded in evidence, including the best criteria from states and high-performing nations, frameworks developed for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), academic research, assessment data on college- and career-ready performance, and input from educators, business, higher education, and the general public.

Benchmarked Against Peers. The CCSS incorporate the best and highest of previous state standards in the U.S. and are benchmarked to other top performing nations around the world.

Standards vs. Curriculum. Standards and curricula are not the same thing. Standards are a clear set of shared goals and expectations that students need to master in order to be prepared for college or the workforce. Curriculum is about what we teach and how we get students to achieve the standards.

Local Decision Making. Common Core State Standards define what students need to know; they do not define what teachers should teach or how students should learn - that decision is left to each state. Local teachers, principals, superintendents and others will decide *how* the standards are to be met. Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms.

HOW THE COMMON CORE BENEFITS MICHIGAN

Clear and Consistent Expectations. The CCSS provide students, parents and teachers with a clear understanding of what students are expected to learn at every grade level, and serve as a roadmap to quality education. Outcomes improve when students, parents, and teachers are on the same page working together toward shared goals.

Resources to Schools. What once was developed on our own, or with a small group of states, will now be widely applicable and available. Far more high quality materials and support will become available at a lower cost. The pool of expertise available to us will grow considerably, and our students will be the beneficiaries.

Data Comparison. The CCSS will allow states to compare Michigan students' results to students in other states on a similar set of standards and assessments. We will be able to learn from successes and identify areas where we need to improve. Students need to be prepared to compete with their peers from across the country and the world.

Economic Development. Our goal is to support students so they will leave school ready for post-secondary education, careers and personal success-all of which contribute to a strong Michigan economy.

Collaboration. Common standards will provide a greater opportunity for the sharing of experiences and best practices both within states and across the country.

Long-Term Cost Savings. The adoption of common standards among states will result in long-term cost savings, given that states will be able to share curriculum, testing and professional development materials.

College, Career and Real-World Readiness. The standards are designed to be relevant in the real world and will ensure that all students graduate high school with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college and careers.