

## Common Core State Standards—*General Brief*

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**The *Common Core State Standards Initiative* 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.**

- Standards are simply the skills and knowledge young people need to be successful in college and in their careers.
- Because the best understanding of education comes from the ground up, the *Standards* are being developed by the states— not the federal government —and they incorporate the best and highest of the current state standards.
- These standards, which will be voluntarily adopted by states, will establish *what* students need to learn, but they will not dictate how teachers should teach. Instead, schools and teachers will decide how best to help students reach the standards.

**These clear, consistent standards will prepare young people for success in college and work, establishing what students need to learn, while allowing schools and teachers to decide how best to help students.**

- The *Standards* will provide students, teachers, and parents with a shared understanding of what students are expected to learn.
- With students, parents, and teachers all on the same page and working together for shared goals, we can ensure that students make progress each year and graduate from school prepared to succeed and build a strong future for themselves and the country.
- When American students have the skills and knowledge needed in today’s jobs, our communities will be positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

**The *Common Core State Standards* will help prepare all students for success in college and work, regardless of where they live.**

- Consistent standards will provide appropriate learning goals for all students, and they will be relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills our young people need for success in both college and work.
- Informed by content experts, teachers, researchers and others, the process used to write the standards was designed to ensure that the standards were informed by:
  - the best state standards;
  - the experience of teachers, content experts, states and leading thinkers; and
  - feedback from the general public.

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*Working at the intersection of policy and politics*