

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS



**BUILDING ACHIEVEMENT IN
OREGON SCHOOLS**

WHAT ARE THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?



The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of shared K-12 learning expectations for students in English-language arts and math. Developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, including content experts, state education leaders, teachers, school administrators, and parents, the CCSS provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 English and math.

The CCSS will be the same wherever students go to school across most of the country. So far, 47 states have adopted the CCSS, which is set for implementation by the 2014-2015 school year.

WHY ARE THE CCSS NECESSARY?

Today, each state has its own process for developing, adopting, and implementing standards. As a result, what students are expected to learn can vary widely from state to state. Too many students are entering college requiring remedial classes in English and math.

COMMON STANDARDS:

- Help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce;
- Provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve our ability to serve the needs of students.
- Are modeled on success. They're aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries, which means students will be well-prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.
- Places a strong emphasis on reading informational and technical texts to prepare students for the demands of college and the workplace.

WILL THE CCSS REPLACE OREGON'S EXISTING ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS FOR MATH AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS?

Yes. While the new standards are similar to Oregon's current standards, some content has been shifted to ensure college and career readiness at the end of high school. The CCSS are more rigorous standards, however, and will require a higher level of mastery of information and concepts. This could potentially impact student scores, at least initially, but please recognize it will take time for students to catch up to these new standards.

SMARTER BALANCED COMMON ASSESSMENT

Oregon is one of 30 states to adopt a new student assessment system, called the SMARTER Balanced Assessment that aligns with the new CCSS for math and English-language arts, beginning in 2014-2015. The SMARTER Balanced builds upon Oregon's current assessment system. By partnering with other states, Oregon will be able to leverage resources, share expertise, and produce a system that will meet the needs and expectations of Oregon students and teachers.

The SMARTER Balanced Assessment will have three major components: Summative Assessments, Interim Assessments, and Formative Tools and Processes.

- The **Formative Assessment** practices are intended to support teachers by providing tools that support their interaction with students by gathering data and information that will help teachers improve their instruction and provide feedback to students.
- The **Interim Assessment** is designed to provide periodic progress reports that will provide timely feedback.
- The purpose of the **Summative Assessment** will be to evaluate programs and support accountability with a preliminary score.



CHANGE IS COMING...

WHEN WILL STUDENTS BEGIN TO SEE THESE CHANGES IN THE CLASSROOM?

Some school districts are getting a jump start on the CCSS and have begun to implement the new content standards already. Others will gradually transition to the CCSS over the course of the next several years, with final implementation by 2014-2015. Districts will first need to work with teachers to make sure everyone understands the knowledge and skills contained within each learning expectation.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP THEIR STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE CCSS?

- Create a study group with other parents, community members and/or school staff to examine the new standards.
- Talk to your child's teacher(s) about how they are preparing to teach to the new standards and how they will measure student progress toward meeting the standards.
- Talk to your children about the importance of graduating from high school ready for college and career success. Discuss with them how the CCSS will be used to guide teaching and learning from kindergarten through high school.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Common Core State Standards, talk with your child's teachers, and visit the resources on the Oregon Department of Education's CCSS web site: www.ode.state.or.us.

