

# Kansas College & Career Ready Standards

*Formerly known as Common Core Standards*

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Commissioner of Education

## Curriculum Standards in Kansas

- ▶ “The state board shall establish curriculum standards which reflect high academic standards for Kansas Education in the core academic areas of **mathematics, science, reading, writing and social studies.**”  
K.S.A. 72-6439
- ▶ The curriculum standards shall be reviewed at least every **seven years.**
- ▶ Math and reading were scheduled for review in 2010

## Process Used to Adopt the Common Core Standards?

- Spring 2009
  - National Governors Association (NGA) and Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) began work to develop a common set of standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and math
- In response, Kansas formed review committees for ELA and math
  - Executive Review Committee
  - Large Review Committee
  - Consisted of Kansas educators and KSDE staff
- Kansas submitted comments during each comment period
- State Board was updated monthly on the progress
- State Board voted to adopt the Common Core Standards in ELA and math on October 12, 2010

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## Process Also Included . . .

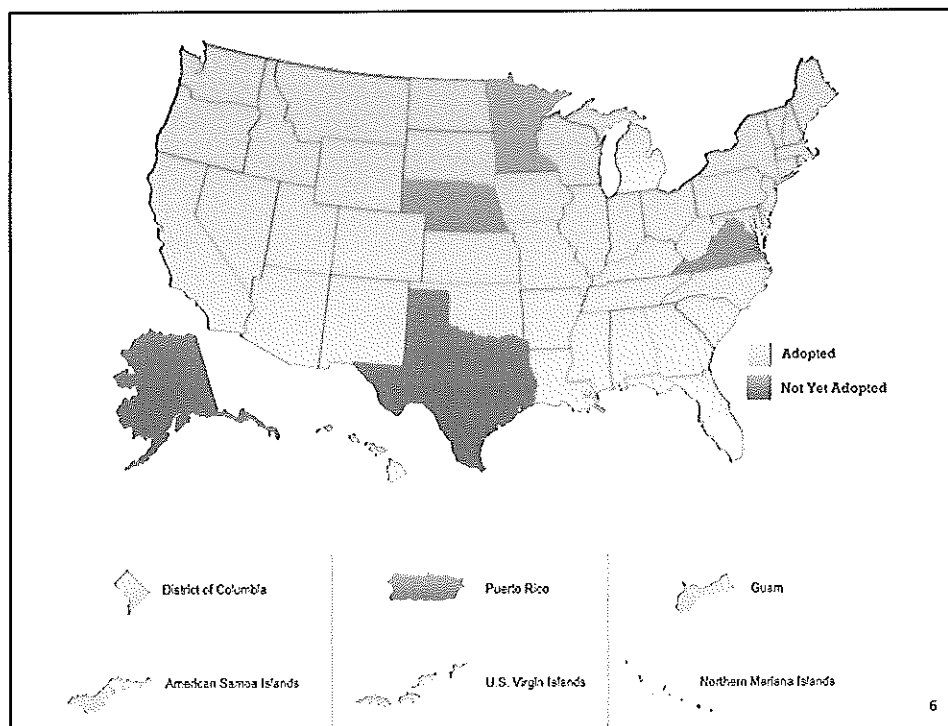
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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Alignment with college and career expectations</li> <li>‣ Gap Analysis Committee of the P-20 Council</li> <li>‣ Achieve assisted with gap analysis</li> <li>‣ Review by Kansas university and college staff</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>‣ Public meetings</li> <li>‣ Kansas Education Commission</li> <li>‣ Standards Comparability</li> <li>‣ Survey of Enacted Curriculum</li> <li>‣ The Achieve Common Core Comparison Tool</li> </ul> |
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## Why the Common Core?

- Fewer, clearer, higher
  - Aligned with college and work expectations
  - Include rigorous content and application of knowledge
  - Build upon strengths and lessons of former state standards
  - Internationally benchmarked
  - Based on evidence and research of what's worked best in the US and internationally
- › Supported by the higher education (MOU signed by KBOR when joining the Smarter/Balanced Consortium)
  - › Kansas has added career and technical education
  - › State Board adopted new name of Kansas College & Career Ready Standards in December 2012

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## Myth vs. Truth

- › Myth #1: The Common Core Standards are national standards
- › Truth #1: The Common Core Standards are not national standards but, rather, standards developed by the NGA and CCSSO and approved by the elected State Board of Education
  
- › Myth #2: The Common Core Standards require a specific curriculum
- › Truth #2: There is not a specific curriculum required for the CCS. In Kansas, local boards of education will continue to make resource and instructional decisions
  
- › Myth #3: Kansas was forced to adopt the Common Core Standards to get federal funds
- › Truth #3: No federal funds received by Kansas are tied to the Common Core Standards

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## Consequences of Kansas Abandoning the CCS

- › Time: A review of standards takes a minimum of 18–24 months
- › Cost of developing new standards: Estimated \$150,000–\$200,000 per content area
- › Cost of developing new assessments: Estimated 9–\$30 million for the two content areas
- › Cost of professional development: Unknown but potentially significant costs for resources and professional development that has taken place since October 2010
- › Cost to other content areas aligned to the CCS:
  - Career and technical education, history/government, science, English language learners
- › Morale: Kansas schools are in the 3rd full year of transitioning to the CCS
- › Compared to other states: Kansas would be 5 years behind all other states
- › One-dimensional view: Would move Kansas back to NCLB and AYP

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## Common Core State Standards Initiative

- **What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?**

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear educational standards for English language arts and mathematics that states can voluntarily adopt. These standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. The standards are benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that our students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace. The Kansas State Board of Education adopted the Common Core Standards in English language arts and mathematics in October 2010.

- **Why is the Common Core State Standards Initiative important?**

This initiative is important because it helps ensure all children across the country are given the tools they need to succeed. High standards that are consistent across states provide teachers, parents, and students with a set of clear expectations that everyone can work toward together. This will ensure that we maintain America's competitive edge, so that all of our students are well prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete with not only their peers here at home, but with students from around the world.

These standards are a common sense first step toward ensuring our children are getting the best possible education no matter where they live.

- **Who led the Common Core State Standards Initiative?**

Parents, teachers, school administrators and experts from across the country together with state leaders, through their membership in the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) led the effort to develop a common core of state standards. In addition, CCSSO and the NGA Center provided public comment periods for everyone to submit feedback on the draft standards documents. Those comments were incorporated into the final standards.

- **How did Kansas adopt the Common Core State Standards?**

A representative sample of educators, in the areas of English language arts and mathematics, from across the state came together to review and provide feedback to the development of the national common core standards. As drafts were received, it was clear that what Kansas teachers believed was important for students to know and be able to do to succeed was being included in the Common Core State Standards. In October 2010, the Kansas State Board of Education adopted the standards.

Across the country, the process of state standards adoption depends on the laws of each state. So while some will adopt through their state boards of education like Kansas, others are adopting them through their state legislatures.

- **Will the Common Core State Standards keep local teachers from deciding what or how to teach?**

No. The Common Core State Standards are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what knowledge and skills will help our students succeed. 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. Local teachers, principals, superintendents, and school boards will continue to make decisions about curriculum and how their school systems are operated.

## Kansas College and Career Ready Standards

### Positive Impact of Kansas College and Career Ready Standards on Teaching and Learning

#### The Kansas College and Career Standards represent opportunities to:

- Advance instruction – to shift the focus of teaching and learning away from Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and toward ensuring all students exit school prepared for college and career.
- Cultivate habits of mind – approaches to learning that are intellectual, practical, and spur student success derived from research.
- Facilitate collaboration – among students, among educators, among disciplines, among states.
- Create fewer standards that increase rigor and raise the bar of academic achievement while articulating those standards in clearer language that is advantageous to students, parents, and educators.
- Focus on results rather than means.
- Maintain flexibility and local control - by focusing on required achievements, the standards leave room for teachers, curriculum developers and states to determine how those goals should be reached and what additional topics should be addressed. ***Kansas educators will still have the opportunity and responsibility to shape the learning that occurs in our classrooms.***
- Close the achievement gap between high school and post-secondary learning.
- Better prepare students for the necessary post-secondary steps to reach their chosen career aspirations.
- Overcome obstacles related to student mobility.
- Better ensure comparable curriculum from one classroom to the next for students who move among districts or even among states. That, in turn, will mean student learning will be more likely to remain on track.
- Increase comparability in student achievement measures with other states using the same assessment aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- Advance an integrated approach to literacy with shared responsibility for all educators.

# Kansas College and Career Ready Standards

## Advantages of Kansas College and Career Ready Standards to the State of Kansas

- The Kansas State Board of Education is required by Kansas statute to review and revise academic standards. The 2003 standards in reading and mathematics were due for revision in 2010. The timing of the common core development allowed the state to benefit from national resources to provide background research in best practice instruction, international benchmarking, and college and career readiness in standards development. Kansas educators had significant involvement in the drafting of the standards and added an additional 15% of unique content to the version of the Common Core Standards adopted by the State Board of Education in October 2010.
- Kansas formed review committees for both math and English language arts (ELA) during the development of the Common Core Standards. The executive review committees for each content area consisted of approximately 10 people, representing teachers in the content area, higher education representatives, special education and English Language Learners (ELL) instructors and, on the ELA committee, literacy coaches and reading specialists. Each content area also had a larger review committee providing feedback to the executive committee. The larger committees consisted of at least 20 to upwards of 40 members including K-12 administrators and teachers, higher education representatives, special education and ELL instructors.
- Members of the review committees shared with the State Board that they were able to see their comments and feedback incorporated into the final version of the Common Core Standards. In this way, we know that Kansas educators did have an influence on the development of the standards.
- The objective of the State Common Core Standards Initiative was to develop a more rigorous set of standards in math and English language arts in order to better prepare students for college and careers. The Kansas review committees believed, as do Kansas educators who are familiar with the state's new standards, that the adopted standards are much more rigorous than the previous Kansas standards.
- Cross walks between the Common Core Standards and previous state standards that were completed by Kansas educators demonstrated the increased rigor of the new standards.
- The rigor of the new standards is also evidenced by other states that have adopted the Common Core State Standards and have already begun to assess student performance on the standards. Kentucky is one of those states and they have seen that these standards are much more rigorous than previous state standards.
- While adoption of internationally benchmarked, college and career ready standards (not necessarily the Common Core Standards) is among the requirements to attain a waiver from some of the requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation, the Kansas State Board of Education adopted the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards a full year before it was even known waivers would be available. The state has attained an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver in part due to its adoption of college and career



ready standards. If we do not implement those standards, we will not be able to move forward with our new accountability system that includes multiple measures of student performance and provides a more meaningful measure of student and school success. Instead, we will have to revert back to the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability system, which relied on a single, arbitrary measure of school success and required all students to attain proficiency in reading and math by 2014.

- If we have to abandon our current college and career ready standards, we will still have to develop new standards to meet the criteria of the waiver or, potentially to meet the requirements of ESEA as the ESEA reauthorization draft includes a requirement for college and career ready standards. We estimate the cost of doing so to be between \$150,000 to \$200,000, plus the cost for an external review of the standard which could add costs between \$90,000 to \$150,000.
- Kansas educators are in their third full year of transitioning to the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards. Schools and districts have invested time, resources, energy and professional development to transition to these higher standards.
- Development of a new set of college and career ready standards would take two years, which would put Kansas a minimum of 5 years behind other states.
- The existing Kansas College and Career Ready Standards give KSDE staff and Kansas educators the opportunity to use resources and professional development created by other states and regional or national organizations. Fees and memberships totaling \$60,000 to \$75,000 from one organization alone have been waived this year and has already begun to return useable resources to schools.
- Kansas is leading the way nationally in the development of text complexity work for the English Language Arts Common Core Standards. Other states are beginning to look to Kansas for leadership in this area and the state is benefiting from the reciprocity of other state efforts.
- Kansas is a member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortia, one of two consortia working to develop assessments aligned to the Common Core Standards. Both consortia received federal grants to develop the assessments. If Kansas adopts the assessment developed by one of the two consortia, it will not incur any development costs for the assessment. If Kansas had to develop its own comparable state assessment, it would cost between \$9 million and \$30 million, with a probable cost of \$22.4 million in one-time development costs.
- Higher education has endorsed the Common Core Standards through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the President and CEO of the Board of Regents in the summer of 2011 stating that any student who achieves a score at or above the agreed-upon cut score from the SMARTER Balanced assessment will have automatic access to credit-bearing courses in math and English language arts.
- Career and Technical Education programs are aligning the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards with career cluster competencies to provide industry recognized credentials to help students become competitive in the 21st century economy.

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# And Here's Why

As business leaders, we believe that ALL American children have a right to an education that prepares them to be successful in a competitive global economy. We also understand that in order to compete in a knowledge-based, global economy, we must improve the academic performance of our students. The United States is once again at a critical place in its quest for educational excellence, and the need for a strong employer voice is greater than ever. America's business leaders can make a positive difference for schools, students and the country's future if we join together and share our expectations for education and our support for the people and institutions that move education reform forward.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative, led by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, has produced K-12 standards in the foundational subjects of math and English that meet the business community's expectations: they are college- and career-ready, grounded in evidence and internationally benchmarked. The CCSS set consistent, focused, rigorous academic expectations for all students, and 46 states and the District of Columbia have already adopted them. The CCSS serve as a necessary foundation for making the changes needed to improve student achievement and ensure the United States' educational and economic preeminence.

We support these new, tougher academic standards that are currently being rolled out in classrooms across the country. These standards will better prepare students for college and the workplace, something of critical importance to the nation's employers. The changes now under way in America's schools hold great promise for creating a more highly skilled workforce that is better equipped to meet the needs of local, state and national economies.

**To learn more about the CCSS and how you can support, go to:  
[www.achievethecore.org/business-speaks-for-the-core](http://www.achievethecore.org/business-speaks-for-the-core)**