

Common Core State Standards

The Academic Baseline for Success in College, Careers and Life



Key Messages

- 1 To ensure that all students have greater opportunities and access to the careers of their choice, we need a K–12 education system that imparts the **knowledge and skills most valued by employers and higher education.**
- 2 Today's — and tomorrow's — **jobs value postsecondary education and training** more than ever. **Americans without the requisite knowledge and skills will struggle** to access good jobs in the increasingly competitive global economy.
- 3 Our state chose to adopt the K–12 Common Core State Standards to help ensure that **all students graduate** from high school **with the core academic knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, careers and life,** for the benefit of their futures and the future of our nation.

What are the Common Core State Standards?

- The Common Core State Standards are K–12 academic standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.
- They were developed by states, and states voluntarily choose to adopt them.
- They are aligned to the expectations of two- and four-year colleges and have been internationally benchmarked.
- The Common Core help ensure comparability across states, districts and schools, mitigating challenges with student and teacher mobility.
- Standards are a critical first step in improving America's education system. They provide the necessary foundation for local decisions around curriculum, assessments and instruction.

Why the Common Core?

To compete in a knowledge-based global economy, the United States must improve the educational outcomes of all students.

Consider:

- **20%** of students entering four-year colleges, and at least **40%** of students entering two-year community colleges, must take remedial courses — relearning at their expense what they should have already learned in high school. (*National Center for Education Statistics*)
- **62%** of new jobs available in 2018 will require some postsecondary education. Without a dramatic change of course, U.S. employers will be unable to fill **3 million** of these positions. (*Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce*)

- A 2009 international assessment (PISA) revealed that 15-year-old students from more than **30 countries** were outperforming U.S. 15-year-olds in mathematics. More than **25 countries** had a higher percentage of students scoring at the highest levels than America, meaning even America's most advanced math students were outperformed by their international counterparts.
- The Common Core will ensure that teachers teach and students learn **the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow**, including communications skills, perseverance in problem solving, technical reading and writing, literacy across disciplines, and the most important mathematical skills.

Learn more about the Common Core at www.achieve.org/achieving-common-core.