

Academic standards set the foundation for our schools and the expectations for what students should know and be able to do each year and upon graduation. While state standards historically have been inconsistent and unfocused — and not anchored in real-world expectations — 46 states and Washington, D.C., have taken a step forward by adopting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

The CCSS have important innovations to prepare students for the challenges of college and the workplace, including:

Important Innovations in CCSS:

Math:

Mathematical “habits of mind,” that foster reasoning, problem solving, perseverance, decision making, and engagement among students.



English:

An emphasis on explanatory writing, including writing from sources and using evidence.

Mathematics

- Standards for Mathematical Practice, or mathematical “habits of mind,” that foster reasoning, problem solving, perseverance, decision making, and engagement among students.
- A sharper focus on key topics in each grade allows educators and students to go deeper into the content, and students to better understand concepts and tackle more complex content as they progress.
- An emphasis on mathematical modeling — the use of mathematics and statistics to analyze economic, social, and everyday situations and make informed decisions.

English/Literacy

- A balance between literature and informational texts to reflect reading demanded on the job and in college.
- Speaking and listening expectations, applied through presentations and group work.
- An emphasis on explanatory writing, including writing from sources and using evidence.
- Literacy standards for science, history, and technical subjects to enable students to read and write in a wider range of contexts.

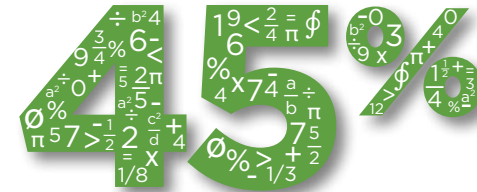


“Having a common standard — and then a measurement system — is extremely powerful. It’s how the best businesses operate in order to know they are going to survive in the future...”

Jeff Wadsworth
President & CEO, Battelle

Key Messages

- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are K-12 standards in English and mathematics that are grounded in research, internationally benchmarked, and anchored in college and career readiness.
- 46 states and Washington, D.C., have chosen to adopt the CCSS because they are more rigorous, clear, and focused than most current state standards — and will implement them fully by the 2014-15 school year.
- We can't successfully prepare students for college and careers unless we set the right expectations and goals. While standards alone are no silver bullet, they provide the necessary foundation upon which the rest of the system should be built.
- College- and career-ready standards, like the CCSS, are critical to the business community because they were designed to prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.
- CCSS will ensure that all students graduate from high school with the core academic skills and knowledge needed to excel in the workplace, including problem solving, communications and teamwork skills.



45%
of high school graduates who took the ACT, scored college-ready in mathematics



52%
of high school graduates who took the ACT, scored college-ready in reading

