

# Introducing Common Core State Standards: CC101

John Kendall, McREL  
jkendall@mcrel.org



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Today's Topics

- The Common Core State Standards Initiative
- Common Core Adoption
- Highlights of the Common Core standards
- Some benefits and concerns

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Purpose of the Initiative

- Develop shared academic standards
  - Based on current educational research and evidence
  - Fewer, higher, and clearer
  - Prepare students for college and high-skills workplace
  - Benchmarked to high performing countries
  - Reflect best of current state standards

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Development

- Achieve, ACT, College Board, NASBE, State Higher Education Executive Officers
- Multiple rounds state feedback (teachers, curriculum directors, content experts, technical advisors)
- NCTE & NCTM feedback
- Public comment (March 2010)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What are the standards?

- Describe critical knowledge and skills, not all knowledge and skills
- Describe what should be taught, not how learning will or should take place in the classroom (curriculum, pedagogy, dynamic of teaching/learning)
- For many, these standards raise expectations

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## How is this different?

	Pre-SBE	Standards-Based Ed.	Common Core
Instructional time needed	Whatever time is available	Often not enough time; other subjects lose	Standards presented as 85% of time needed
Curriculum support	Curriculum = textbook	Curriculum lags standards	Curriculum in development

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Common Core Standards for K-12

- English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects
- Mathematics

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Publication June 2010

- As of November 2011, adopted by 46 states & D.C.
- Not (yet) adopted: Alaska, Minnesota (math), Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## What does Adoption Mean?

- Share standards with 46 states and other entities
- Eligible for efforts that require College & Career Readiness standards and/or participation in state consortia
- Can join one of the Assessment Consortia

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## State Assessment Consortia

- SMARTER Balanced Consortium (SBAC)
- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Time's Swift Arrow



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## From the Present State to the Future CCS

- Are all aspects of this state standard addressed in the Common Core?
- Is the state standard content more or less challenging than the Common Core content?
- Will current resources for this state standard still be useful?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### From the Future CCS Looking Back to the Present State

- Is this Common Core standard currently addressed in the state standards?
- Does the emphasis or focus of this Common Core standard differ from the state standard?
- Is the content of this Common Core more challenging than the state standard?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### English Language Arts

- Reading
  - Foundational skills (K-5)
  - Informational text
  - Literature
- Writing
- Speaking & Listening
- Language
- Literacy Across the Content Areas

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### College & Career Readiness Anchor Standards

- Organize all of K-12
- Describe expectations for the student ready for College and Career
- Provide anchor for specifics at each grade under each strand

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## College & Career Anchor Standard: Language Strand

5. Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

- Grade 3: Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., take steps)
- Grade 8: Interpret figures of speech (e.g. verbal irony, puns) in context.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Reading Texts



---

---

---

---

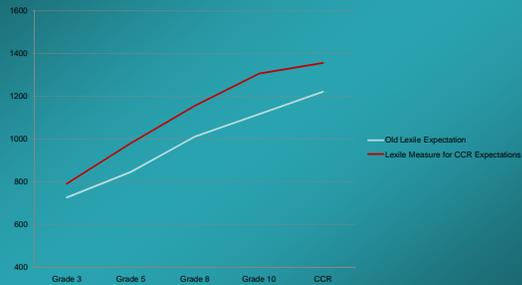
---

---

---

---

## Reading



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Reader & Task

- Role of the teacher:
  - Understanding of student's strengths, motivations, view of the task
- A prime example showing that standards are the "what" not the "how"

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Writing

- Common elements of persuasive writing
  - Appeal to emotion
  - Credibility/Character of author
- What makes a strong argument
  - Claims
  - Evidence
  - Critical thinking, sound logic
  - Consider multiple viewpoints

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Other aspects of ELA

- Speaking & Listening
  - Comprehension and collaboration
  - Presentation of knowledge and ideas
- Language
  - Emphasis on general academic and domain specific words
- Literacy
  - Across multiple subject areas

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Mathematics

- Standards for Mathematical Practice
- Standards for Mathematical Content

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Standards for Mathematical Practice (excerpt)

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Mathematics Design

- Focus
  - Specified for each grade level
- Coherence
  - Organization
  - How students learn
  - Students experience of mathematics
  - Emphasis on conceptual understanding

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Elementary Mathematics

- Strong grounding in numbers & operations
- Early introduction of fractions
- Conceptual understanding
  - why algorithms work

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Middle School Mathematics

- Probability & Statistics
- Expressions of ratio and proportion
- Pre-algebra, Algebra
- Proofs

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## High School Mathematics

- Advanced topics in statistics
- Emphasis on proofs
- Some content commonly found in Algebra II

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Some Concerns about the Common Core

- One size fits all?
- Freedom to choose?
- Assessment & Accountability

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Some Benefits of the Common Core

- More easily shared resources: applicable across states
- Multiple pathways: Critical mass for customized lessons
- Opportunities to advance the teaching profession

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---