

Common Core State Standards

BASIC FACTS

1) The Common Core State Standards (Common Core) are owned by two tax-exempt, non-governmental organizations - the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) and the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

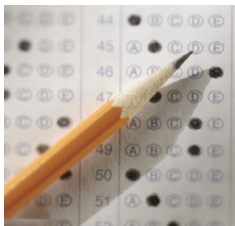
2) Through the Common Core the NGA and CCSSO along with other government/non governmental organizations are attempting to align the nation to a common set of English and math standards from preschool to 12th grade. They are "state standards" because the states are expected to follow them, not because the states developed them.

3) Participating states voluntarily adopted the Common Core. The Federal Government has not forced any state to participate but has offered financial incentives. Several of the states committed their schools to adopting Common Core without reading the standards.



4) Washington State received the contract to develop one of the two Common Core assessments. The designers of our WASL were instrumental in developing the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

5) To comply with federal regulations, all public schools must offer the Smarter Balanced Assessment and achieve a 95% state participation rate.



6) The Smarter Balanced Assessment is a prototype of a new computerized assessment. School officials and teachers were told that students are expected to score as much as 30% below their normal test scores.

CONCERNS

1) During the development of Common Core, there were no open meetings, no public access to records. Only token input from English and Math professors was considered.

2) English Professor Sandra Stotsky and mathematician Professor James Milgram were on the 29 member Validation Committee to review the standards. Both refused to approve the Common Core Standards. In all, five of the 29 members did not approve.

3) The Thomas B. Fordham Institute 2010 report on the state standards reveal that some states had higher standards than Common Core. These states had to lower their expectations when they adopted Common Core State Standards.

4) There has been no research to determine if the Smarter Balanced Assessment is valid and reliable. Field test results appear to focus on the process of delivering the assessment but not on the accuracy of the scoring. There is no track record showing that the assessment actually predicts college and career readiness.

5) All schools implementing Common Core are aligning their curriculum with the standards. It appears that textbooks, flashcards, and other tools promoting repetition and memorization are being replaced with teaching methods

6) s that some states have higher standards than the Common Core. The top states have had to lower their standards to come down to the level of the Common Core.

OPTING OUT

1) Public schools must administer the Common Core assessments, but there is no law requiring students to take the assessment.

2) Opting out will affect the statistics for your school and the state. The federal government may threaten to withhold funding to the state for low participation rates. Schools not reaching Adequate Yearly Progress may face penalties.

3) In order to graduate eleventh graders must pass the Smarter Balanced Assessment or state-approved alternatives. There is a phase-in schedule for Smarter Balanced Assessments starting in the years 2017. There are no consequences for opting out below the 11th grade, however they may not have the experience to take the assessment in future years.



PROMOTING CCS

Common Core website
Smarter Balanced website
CCS promoter non profit
WA. Superintendent

corestandards.org
smarterbalanced.org
achieve.org/standards
k12.wa.us/curriculuminstruct

CONCERNS ABOUT CCS:

National information
National research
WA grassroots
WA research

truthinamericaneducation.com
pioneerinstitute.org/common-core
stopcommoncorewa.wordpress.com
curewashington.org