

Private Schools/Home Schools



PRIVATE SCHOOLS / HOME SCHOOLING

1) Private schools are not required to adopt Common Core Standards or the accompanying assessment systems. They may follow their own philosophies of education and religious schools can promote their values. However many private schools have felt a need to conform to the public school system and have purchased Common Core textbooks and materials.

2) Home school students are also not required to adopt Common Core Standards. They may continue to use materials, tests, and assessments that fit their child.



3) It is becoming more difficult to purchase textbooks that are not aligned with the Common Core Standards. Private schools and home school parents should review any material carefully to be sure that the content fits their needs.

4) The College Board is aligning with Common Core. The Advanced Placement curriculum and assessments and the SAT are currently being revised. Private school and home school students may feel pressured to conform to the Common Core due to these changes. Historically the WASL and HSPE were not a reliable source of college-readiness information for many colleges, and higher education institutions did not rely on them. Most likely the Smarter Balanced Assessment will be regarded the same way. Should the SAT and other College Board products change, then they too may lose their reliability as an indicator of college readiness. Private school and home school students should not fear these changes but continue to use their chosen curricula.



PRIVATE & RELIGIOUS DAYCARES / PRESCHOOLS

Current legislation is making changes to privately owned daycares and pre schools. This includes family care and religious daycare centers. If the center receives any state or federal monies in the form of Working Connections and/or other grant programs, they will be required to enroll in the state's Early Achievers program. The Early Achievers program will dictate the care center's environment, diversity training, and curriculum. The recommended state curriculum is "Teaching Strategies GOLD" which will be aligned with the Common Core Standards.

Common Core Standards (WA)

In March 2010 Washington State passed a law that committed our public schools to the Common Core State Standards system. One by one each public school district adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the accompanying assessments in exchange for the promise of more funding. The adoption of the assessments further committed the schools to follow common core curricula (books and materials) and pedagogy (methods of teaching).

Common Core Standards

BASIC FACTS:

1) The copyright to the Common Core State Standards is owned by two tax-exempt, non-governmental organizations - the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). They are the only ones that can change the standards.

2) Through the Common Core State Standards these 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.

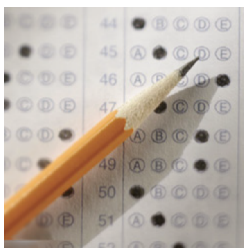
3) Participating States voluntarily adopted the Common Core. The Federal Government has not forced any state to participate but has offered financial incentives. Some of the States committed their schools to Common Core without reading the standards.



4) Washington State held the contract for one of the two Common Core assessment and has been a major player in developing the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

5) In order to comply with federal regulations, all public schools must offer the SBA and achieve a 95% state participation rate.

6) The Smarter Balanced Assessment is a prototype of a new computerized assessment. Although it has worked better than expected, this assessment is still being improved. Students are expected to score as much as 30% below their normal test scores.



CONCERNS:

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

2) Professor Sandra Stotsky (English) and Professor James Milgram (Math) were on the review panel but both refused to approve the CCSS document.

3) The Fordham Foundation ranking of the standards reveal that the Common Core State Standards are NOT based on high quality. The top states have had to lower their standards to come down to the level of the Common Core.

4) There have been no studies determining that 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 also no track record showing that the assessment actually predicts college and career readiness.

5) All schools participating in Common Core are aligning their curriculum with the standards. It appears that textbooks, flashcards, and other tools promoting repetition and memorization are being replaced by teaching methods that promote group consensus and thought processes required by the Common Core assessments.

OPTING OUT :

1) Public schools must offer 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 may changes if the school does not show Adequate Yearly Progress.

3) In order to graduate 11th 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 and beyond. There are no consequences for opting out of SBAC below the 11th grade, except that they may not be prepared to take the assessment at grade 11.

4) There are several online tests and curriculum for children during the year to conform them to the Common Core assessment mindset.



be forced to make

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