

Benefits of the Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

- Preparation:** The standards are college-or-career ready.
- Competition:** The standards are internationally benchmarked.
- Equity:** The expectations of the standards are consistent for all and not dependent on a student's zip code.
- Clarity:** The standards are focused, coherent, and clear.
- Collaboration:** The standards create a foundation to work collaboratively across states and districts.

Benefits for South Carolina

The CCSS are a clear set of shared goals and expectations of the knowledge and skills that will help students succeed in English language arts and mathematics.

The CCSS have been built from the best state standards in the country. They are evidence-based, aligned with college and work expectations, include rigorous content and skills, and are informed by other top performing countries.

Common standards will ensure more consistent exposure to materials and learning experiences for all students.

Common Core State Standard Resources

To view the Common Core State Standards, please go to the following URL: <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/190/>

To view Frequently Asked Questions concerning the Common Core State Standards, please go to the following URL: <http://www.corestandards.org/frequently-asked-questions>

To view the National PTA Parent Guides to Student Success, please go to the following URL: <http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>



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South Carolina & the Common Core State Standards Initiative



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South Carolina and the Common Core State Standards

About the Common Core State Standards

South Carolina has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for K-12 English language arts and mathematics.

The CCSS standards provide a consistent framework to prepare students for success in college or the 21st century workplace. They also represent a logical next step from the current South Carolina Academic Standards.

The State Board of Education and the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) approved the use of the Common Core State Standards as South Carolina's Academic Standards for English language arts and mathematics on July 14, 2010.

What Parents and Students Need to Know

South Carolina Students:

- CCSS require rigorous knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college or careers
- Relevant content and application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills is essential

South Carolina Parents:

- Standards will be the same for all students in states adopting the CCSS, making transitions smoother for students
- With adoption of the CCSS, states and districts can share approaches to helping parents support and reinforce learning at home

Key features of the Common Core State Standards

Reading: Text complexity and growth of comprehension

The Reading standards place equal emphasis on the sophistication of what students read and the skill with which they read.

Writing: Text types, responding to reading, and research

The Writing standards require specific writing types: arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives.

Speaking and Listening: Flexible communication and collaboration

The Speaking and Listening standards require students to develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills.

Language: Conventions, effective use, and vocabulary

The Language standards include the essential "rules" of standard written and spoken English, but they also approach language as a matter of craft and informed choice among alternatives.

Mathematics: Practice and Content

The practice standards describe ways in which students should engage with the content, processes, and proficiencies in mathematics. The content standards are designed as learning progressions through the grades and define what students should understand and be able to do in mathematics.

Transitioning to the Common Core State Standards in South Carolina

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has begun the planning process for understanding and implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

During the transition process, the SCDE will work with educators from around the state to review/adapt resources from other states to develop/refine South Carolina specific resources for the Common Core State Standards Support Site.

Timeline for Implementation

School Year	Implementation Phase
2010-11	Planning, Awareness
2011-12	Transition Year
2012-13	Transition Year
2013-14	*Bridge Year
2014-15	Full Implementation

*CCSS will be used for instructional purposes during this school year.