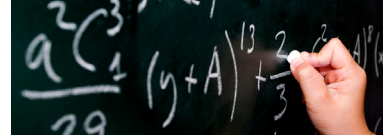


FACT SHEET

Data Collection and the Common Core



General Information

The Common Core Standards establish high-quality academic expectations in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics that define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade to be on track for success in college and career.

- The Common Core Standards initiative was led by states through the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers.
- The federal government was not involved in the standards development and has not mandated adoption of the standards.
- A diverse team of teachers, parents, administrators, researchers and content experts developed the Common Core to be academically rigorous, attainable for students and practical for teachers and districts.
- Kansas revises its content standards every seven years. The Kansas math and reading standards were due to be revised in 2010.
- Kansas review committees, made up of Kansas educators, joined education experts from other states in reviewing and providing feedback to the Common Core Standards.
- Standards are not curriculum. Standards identify where a student should be academically at a point in time. Curriculum is how students get there and is determined by local school districts.
- The Common Core Standards are benchmarked to international standards to ensure our students are competitive at home and around the world.
- The Common Core Standards are supported by business and industry, as demonstrated by the open letter published in the New York Times in February 2013 and reprinted on the back side of this document.
- Implementation of the standards is completely in the hands of states and local school districts.
- Kansas added state specific content to the Common Core Standards, making them unique from other state standards.
- The integration of Common Core Standards with Career and Technical Education has resulted in opportunities for students to obtain business and industry recognized credentials that are transferable outside of Kansas.
- Upon the recommendation of the Kansas Math and Reading Review Committees, the State Board of Education adopted the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards in October 2010, a full year before states were aware that waivers to NCLB would be available.
- In a 2011 study, instructors of 1,897 courses at 944 two- and four-year colleges across the country reviewed the Common Core State Standards. 96% of the responding instructors agreed that the standards were at a level of rigor sufficient for preparation for their courses.
- Contrary to claims the Common Core Standards were mandated in the federal Race to the Top (RTTT) grant competition, only internationally benchmarked college and career ready standards were required. At least one state that received a RTTT grant did not adopt the Common Core Standards. While Kansas completed a RTTT application for the first phase of the grant competition, it did not pursue the grant into phase two.

Longitudinal Data System

General Information

The Statewide Longitudinal Data System allows Kansas to continue efforts to provide schools and districts with necessary data to inform instruction and ensure every student receives the most appropriate education possible.

- The Common Core Standards do not contain requirements related to data collection.
- Kansas has had a student level data system since 2005 and there are a number of data points the state is required to collect.
- The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) collects a variety of information on Kansas students, including such things as date of birth, race/ethnicity, gender, program participation including status related to English language proficiency or special education, performance on state assessments, as well as students who qualify for free/reduced priced meals.
- Required reports of this data are only provided in the aggregate, meaning only statewide, district and building data is provided, not student level data.
- The adoption of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards has no impact on the state's data collection requirements.
- The KSDE **DOES NOT** collect information on political affiliations or beliefs; sex behavior or attitudes; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs or income of the student or family.

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BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY					

And Here's Why

As business leaders, we believe that ALL American children have a right to an education that prepares them to be successful in a competitive global economy. We also understand that in order to compete in a knowledge-based, global economy, we must improve the academic performance of our students. The United States is once again at a critical place in its quest for educational excellence, and the need for a strong employer voice is greater than ever. America's business leaders can make a positive difference for schools, students and the country's future if we join together and share our expectations for education and our support for the people and institutions that move education reform forward.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Initiative, led by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, has produced K–12 standards in the foundational subjects of math and English that meet the business community's expectations: they are college- and career-ready, grounded in evidence and internationally benchmarked. The

CCSS set consistent, focused, rigorous academic expectations for all students, and 46 states and the District of Columbia have already adopted them. The CCSS serve as a necessary foundation for making the changes needed to improve student achievement and ensure the United States' educational and economic preeminence.

We support these new, tougher academic standards that are currently being rolled out in classrooms across the country. These standards will better prepare students for college and the workplace, something of critical importance to the nation's employers. The changes now under way in America's schools hold great promise for creating a more highly skilled workforce that is better equipped to meet the needs of local, state and national economies.

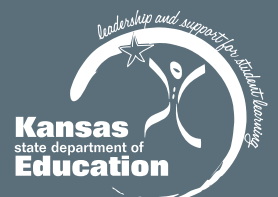
To learn more about the CCSS and how you can support, go to: www.achievethecore.org/business-speaks-for-the-core

— published in the *New York Times*, Feb. 12, 2013

For more information:

Common Core Website: www.ksde.org - Kansas College and Career Ready Standards

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