



# FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

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Florida's 67 superintendents, as Constitutional officers and dedicated education professionals, are fully committed to providing "a secure and high quality system that allows students to obtain an excellent education." To that end, **Florida superintendents strongly support Common Core State Standards (CCSS).**

The CCSS are the culmination of an extended, broad-based effort to fulfill the charge issued by the states to create the next generation of K-12 standards in order to help ensure that all students are college and career ready. This is one of the most important changes in education in the United States in the last 50 years and stands to positively affect students, parents, teachers, communities, and the workforce as we take a firm grasp on what 21<sup>st</sup> century learning truly means.

The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, mirroring the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The CCSS provide a consistent, clear, understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.

- **Implementation of CCSS must continue to move forward as the standards are applied in all grades and throughout all subjects in the next few years, recognizing that full implementation is a multi-year effort of intense professional development and the adoption of curriculum that is aligned with the standards.**

### The Need to Stay the Course

In the spring of 2009, in an effort unprecedented in the history of U.S. education, governors and state commissioners of educations from across the United States formed the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) with a singular purpose:

- **To develop a set of shared national standards ensuring that students in every state are held to the same level of expectations that students in the world's highest-performing counties are, and that they gain the knowledge and skills they need to success in our global economy.**

The CCSS were released on June 2, 2010 and for the past three years Florida school districts, administrators and teachers have been diligently working to implement CCSS in their classrooms. Teachers and administrators have embraced the CCSS and have spent the past three years actively working towards full implementation of the standards in their districts. School districts have invested a great deal of time, talent and funding into implementation of the new standards. Teachers have seen first-hand the learning gains that are taking place each and every day in classrooms throughout Florida, as teachers are afforded the freedom to utilize various teaching methods to reach the end goal of mastering these higher, more rigorous standards.

## **FADSS Common Core State Standards Position Paper, cont.**

It is also important to note that CCSS is just English Language Arts (ELA) and math, and local school districts have the freedom and discretion to choose their curriculum. CCSS simply determines the “What” in terms of student standards; local schools districts determine the “How” it is implement and selects the curriculum.

It is also important to note that the 2013 Florida Legislature recently affirmed CCSS when it passed SB1076 and incorporated Common Core into the definition of Next Generation Sunshine State Standards [§1000.21(7), lines 216-227, section 2].

### **How Common Core is Different**

The CCSS stress rigor, depth, complexity, relevance, and a deeper understanding of context. The standards are evidence and research based, and internationally benchmarked so that all students are prepared for college or career so that they have the skills they need to succeed in our global economy and society. Through CCSS we are seeing profound changes in the way students learn and are assessed, teachers teach, and instructional leaders lead. Impactful teaching is happening each and every day in Florida classrooms and CCSS is producing learning gains for our students.

**Florida needs to stay the course. Why? Not because of the monetary investment; or the manpower investment of teachers and administrators; but for the singular reason that CCSS is the right educational path for our students in order to give them the skills they need for college and career - period.**

### **The Path of Resistance**

The opposition to the Common Core thrives on fear, panic, and paranoia and many of those opposing it are individuals who in most instances have not even read the standards. There is clear data to show the detailed and laborious process through which several teams of highly respected educators and researchers went through to arrive at the “core” standards that are the heart of CCSS.

The end product is rigorous standards that provide a consistent and clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. Simply put, the rigorous CCSS define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education experience so that they will graduate high school fully prepared for post-secondary success.

Many organizations recognize this fact and are supportive of the CCSS, including: Arts Education Partnership (AEP), Florida Chamber of Commerce, Council of 100, Democrats for Education Reform, Florida PTA, National PTA, Foundation for Florida’s Future, the National Governors Association (NGA), the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), and several others.

More importantly – Florida teachers have embraced Common Core and do not need the educational rug pulled out from under them yet again.