



# HIGHER STANDARDS STRONGER MINDS

## WHAT ARE OREGON'S COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY STANDARDS?

These standards, also known as the Common Core, are a set of high learning expectations in math and English that are designed to better prepare K-12 students for success in college, work, and life. The standards offer a clear picture of what students should know and be able to do at every grade level. They have been voluntarily adopted by 46 states.

Until now, every state has had different learning standards. Common Core fixes that and raises the bar for learning. This is a big change in the way students learn and one that will take time to see results, but it's an approach that will help Oregon students compete for the quality jobs our state has to offer. They are higher standards for all students.

### STANDARDS IN OREGON SCHOOLS

80% of Oregon teachers report what is taught in their school aligns with the new college- and career-ready standards.

## TOP 3 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COMMON CORE

### CONSISTENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Before these standards, all 50 states had different sets of expectations for what students should know and be able to do in each grade. Common Core provides a consistent set of learning standards and expectations for all students, no matter where they live.

### STUDENTS FOCUS ON DEVELOPING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

The standards go deeper into fewer topics and focus on developing students' understanding of key concepts. They build on one another, allowing students to apply the skills and knowledge learned in the previous grade to real-life situations.



### BUILDING THE CRITICAL SKILLS STUDENTS NEED IN THE JOB MARKET

Common Core focuses on building and applying real-world skills students need to be ready for college and work -- so they can be more competitive in the new global economy.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Why is the Common Core important to you and your child?**

The Common Core provides benchmarks, or standards, for teaching and learning at every grade level. The standards are consistent across states and match the standards used by top-performing nations. Consistent learning expectations will help parents and teachers work together to make sure students have the opportunities they need to succeed in school and in life.

## **Why has Oregon adopted these college- and career-ready standards?**

Oregon adopted the Common Core and the aligned test because these standards will help students be better prepared for college and work.

Currently in Oregon:

- Far too many of our students graduate unprepared for college and careers; and
- Approximately 66% of our students who go on to a community college need to take remedial courses in English, math, or both.

## **Will schools and teachers still have control over teaching materials and other local decisions?**

Yes. The way in which the new learning standards are taught is up to each of Oregon's 197 school districts. Each school or district will continue to have the flexibility to select the teaching materials and resources that best meet the needs of its students.

## **Who developed the Common Core?**

The development of these standards began in 2009. Hundreds of teachers, education researchers, mathematicians, and other experts across the country provided input and guidance and have collaborated in developing the learning standards. With the Common Core, nearly every state is now working together and sharing resources to help our kids get ready for life after high school.

## **If we're raising learning expectations, will the test be harder, too?**

Initially, yes. But that's not because students will know less. It's because we'll be expecting more. Research shows that when you raise learning expectations, students will work harder to meet them. It may take some time for students to meet and exceed the standards, but most parents and teachers understand that a drop in test scores is temporary and that raising learning standards is important for our students' futures.

## **Where can I learn more about Common Core in Oregon?**

Please visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

### **COMMON CORE IN OREGON**

2010: Oregon officially adopts Common Core

2011: State provides toolkits to teachers and schools to start implementing the standards

2012-14: Teachers receive professional development to support successful implementation of the standards

2014-15: Students take new tests aligned to the Common Core