

## What do the Common Core State Standards mean for us?

**Have you heard about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?** These newly adopted standards will replace Oregon's standards in English Language Arts and Math over the next few years, with assessment of student proficiency beginning spring of 2015. The Common Core State Standards have the potential to effect dramatic changes in education both here in Oregon and around the U.S.

### The Common Core:

- **Increase global competitiveness.** The Common Core State Standards are aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries. This means our students will be well prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.
- **Provide consistency across the country.** Common standards mean that Oregon students are learning the same content and skills as students from around the U.S. This places everyone on an even playing field and eases transitions between states.
- **Support the Oregon Diploma.** The Common Core offer rigorous K-12 standards that integrate the essential skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and mathematical practice. Add to that the emphasis the CCSS place on reading informational text and it is clear these standards will "prepare each student for success in college, work, and citizenship."
- **Build on what is working in Oregon schools.** The CCSS are not "one more thing" for districts to do. Practices already effectively implemented in many Oregon districts, such as Proficiency-based Teaching and Learning, the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework, Response to Intervention (OrRTI), Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS), the Oregon DATA Project, and instructional materials selection can be supported by the rigorous, real-life standards of the CCSS.
- **Support high quality instruction by teachers.** Common standards make creating, aligning, finding, and sharing lessons, strategies and assessments within grade levels, schools, and districts easier for teachers, allowing them to focus on high quality instruction. It also makes it possible for teachers from different districts and different states to efficiently share effective practices.
- **Offer 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs.** The CCSS reach beyond English and Math. They integrate literacy into subjects such as Science, Social Studies, and Technical Subjects to better prepare all students for college and career success in the rapidly changing workplace.

How do we fit in? The role of School Boards is to support the design and implementation process for the Common Core in your district. To find out more, visit [www.ode.state.or.us/go/commoncore](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/commoncore).



*Every student, Every day – A Success!*