

Why the Common Core?

- **These common standards help ensure that students are receiving a high quality, rigorous education consistently, from school to school and state to state.** The Common Core State Standards are shared learning expectations adopted by 46 states around the country. They provide a clear, consistent understanding of what our students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English.
- **The Common Core are not federal standards.** They were developed by the states for the states. Teachers, administrators, parents, and educational experts from across the country came together to design these common standards for what our students need to know and be able to do to be prepared for their futures. The state-led effort received feedback from a wide range of national organizations, educators, and over 10,000 stakeholders from around the country.
- **We own this.** Our state has been involved in every step of the standard's development and adoption. Oregon teachers and administrators reviewed various versions of the standards and provided multiple rounds of feedback to the Common Core developers before they were adopted by the State Board of Education. Oregon has been very active in helping to shape this work to make sure it meets the needs of our students and schools.
- **Our kids need to be prepared for college, career, and future success.** Because they are aligned to international standards, the Common Core will prepare our students to compete not only with students from around the country but with students from around the world. As the economy continues to globalize, we need to ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for the opportunities and challenges they will face after high school.
- **What students learn in school should be directly related to the skills they will need once they leave.** The Common Core places a strong emphasis on reading informational texts to prepare students for what they will be asked to do in college and the workplace. These standards will prepare our students for career success in the rapidly changing world of work. However, students will still study literary texts.
- **The Common Core are not curriculum.** Curriculum is what and how students are taught and curriculum remain a local school district decision. The Common Core are simply the standards outlining what students should know and be able to do at various grades. Oregon has had state-adopted standards for years with locally adopted curriculum that allows for teacher flexibility and creativity in the classroom. The Common Core are simply the latest version of these standards.
- **During tough economic times, we need to utilize economies of scale.** Common standards mean that resources and materials can be shared across states. It also means that teachers can share strategies, lesson plans, and best practices to better meet the needs of their students. This can save states money and improve instruction for kids.
- **Parents can learn more about the common core – and how it will help their children prepare** at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3380>. Parent guides by grade are available at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3398>.