



# State Academic Standards

## Activity around the Common Core

Education Commission of the States

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## States and the (not so) new standards – where are they now?

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States began adopting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2009, following their creation by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. Five years later, policymakers in several states continue to debate the Common Core and related elements such as how to assess the standards.

This brief provides a sampling of state legislative activity and executive branch action around the CCSS in 2013 and through June 20, 2014. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list; rather, it is narrowly focused on the single issue of state continuation with – or exit from – the Common Core. Activity around assessing the standards is not included.

State legislatures ultimately are responsible for establishing academic standards in nearly all states. Most legislatures then task state boards of education or departments of education with adopting and implementing the standards\*.

However, concerns about the Common Core – whether arising from routine state standards reviews, concerns about data privacy or anxiety over control of classroom content – have prompted a number of governors to take action. It should be noted that the vast majority of states adopting the Common Core continue with that effort.

### ***Executive orders about the Common Core State Standards***

- **May 2013: Georgia** Gov. Nathan Deal issued an executive order reaffirming the state's commitment to the CCSS. In addition, the order emphasized the state's commitment to local control over the education of its students and the priority the state has on protecting student data privacy. (Executive Order 261)
- **June 2013: Nevada** Gov. Brian Sandoval issued an executive order creating a CCSS Steering Committee to assist with implementation of the standards statewide. (Executive Order 2013-06)
- **September 2013: Arizona** Gov. Jan Brewer issued an executive order renaming the state standards the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards. In addition, the order affirms the federal government cannot impose curriculum. (Executive Order 2013-8)
- **September 2013: Maine** Gov. Paul LePage issued an executive order affirming commitment to the CCSS while prioritizing local

### ***By the Numbers***

#### **Initial adoption**

- 45 states + D.C. adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English and math since 2009 and 2010.
- 1 state – Minnesota – adopted the English standards only.
- 4 states – Alaska, Nebraska, Texas and Virginia – did not adopt the CCSS but have approved new standards. Texas passed a law prohibiting its state board of education from adopting the CCSS.

#### **Recent activity**

- 6 governors issued executive orders pertaining to state standards; 1 executive order – in Louisiana – was an action to exit the CCSS.
- 3 states – Indiana, Oklahoma and South Carolina – passed legislation to exit the CCSS.
- 2 states have pending legislation to exit the CCSS.

#### **Tally as of publication date**

- 42 states and D.C. continue with the CCSS in place.
- 2 of those states – Missouri and North Carolina – have pending legislation to exit the CCSS.

control over curriculum and protection of student privacy rights. (Executive Order 6)

- **October 2013: Iowa** Gov. Terry Branstad issued an executive order emphasizing the state of Iowa, and not the federal government or any other entity, determines the content of the state's academic standards. The order also requires a regular review and public comment on the Iowa Core. (Executive Order 83)
- **June 2014: Louisiana** Gov. Bobby Jindal issued an executive order removing the state from the CCSS. (Executive Order BJ 2014 – 6)

### *State legislative action to leave the Common Core State Standards*

- **March 2014: Indiana** legislators created a pathway for the state to leave the CCSS and adopt new standards, which have been adopted under a new name and align with the CCSS. (Senate Bill 91)
- **May 2014: South Carolina** passed legislation removing the state from the CCSS in 2015-16 and directing the state to review and adopt new state-developed standards. (House Bill 3893)
- **June 2014: Oklahoma** lawmakers authorized the immediate reversion to the standards, called the Priority Academic Student Skills, in place prior to the CCSS. (House Bill 3399)

### *Examples of pending state legislation to leave the Common Core State Standards*

- **Missouri** Gov. Jay Nixon has yet to take action on a bill approved by lawmakers that would have the state leave the CCSS. The bill would repeal the CCSS by 2016-2017 and establish new state standards with a built-in process for revision. (House Bill 1490)
- **North Carolina** lawmakers have competing proposals requiring an exit from the CCSS. (House Bill 1061, Senate Bill 812)

### *Examples of legislative action moving forward with the Common Core State Standards*

- **March 2014: South Dakota** is moving forward with its commitment to the CCSS but enacted legislation creating a two-year moratorium prohibiting the state board of education from adopting any new uniform content standards drafted by a multi-state consortium and creating an opportunity for public comment on all new content standards. (Senate Bill 64)
- **April 2014: Maryland** passed a law creating an implementation workgroup to assist with technical support and professional development to successfully implement Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards at the local level. These standards incorporate the CCSS. In addition, the workgroup is to consider how special populations of students, resources for implementation, technological readiness, school calendars and teacher evaluations will be impacted by the state's standards. (House Bill 1164)
- **Pending: California** introduced legislation that, if passed, will appropriate additional funds to create a pilot program to measure the effectiveness of the adopted CCSS in school districts that have aligned curricular frameworks to the CCSS. (Senate Bill 1016)

### *Examples of legislative action to modify the adopted Common Core State Standards*

- **January 2014: Florida** made modifications to the CCSS for math and language arts. The legislation also removed the terms in statute about transitioning to the CCSS or assessments and used a new name for the standards, "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards." (House Bill 7031)

### *Examples of legislative action to limit funding for Common Core State Standards*

- **May 2014: Alaska** did not endorse the CCSS but Anchorage became one of the first school districts to adopt the standards. Subsequently, lawmakers prohibited the state department or board of education from spending money on CCSS implementation and from entering agreements that cede control over standards or assessments. (House Bill 278)

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\**Minnesota, New Mexico and Wisconsin do not have state boards of education.*