Common Core State Standards: A look at what states are doing

DENVER — There has been a flurry of activity around the Common Core State Standards, and while it seems the landscape is changing all the time, there has been very limited change in state standards. A new report from the Education Commission of the States captures a snapshot of where states currently stand in regard to those standards.

Published today, States and the (not so) new standards — where are they now? provides a sampling of state legislative activity and executive branch action around the Common Core through Sept. 1, 2014. The report is narrowly focused on the single issue of state affirmation, modification or replacement of the standards.

A look at the numbers:
- 45 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core in English and math since the standards were launched in 2010.
- As of today, 43 states and D.C. continue with the standards in place — at least for now.
- 2 states — Indiana and Oklahoma — have taken action to exit the Common Core. Louisiana is attempting to exit.
- 4 states — Alaska, Nebraska, Texas and Virginia — did not adopt the Common Core but have approved new standards. Minnesota adopted only the English standards.
- 4 states — Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina — are reviewing and could potentially replace the Common Core.

“While there has been a lot of discussion around the Common Core State Standards this year, this report highlights that 43 of the states continue with the standards in place as the 2014-15 school year begins,” said ECS President Jeremy Anderson. “With 38 of the 46 state legislatures already adjourned for the year, it is unlikely that many states will take action to change their state standards in the near future.”

The report also provides an overview of the handful of state legislatures that have added steps to the adoption and implementation process of new academic standards. Those extra steps, which state education leaders must adhere to, include waiting periods to allow for public comment.

Some concerns about the Common Core have primarily centered around control of classroom content and data privacy, though it should be noted that the majority of states that adopted the standards continue to support the effort.

“Several states have interim committees exploring the suitability of the standards and the assessments states will utilize,” said ECS State Relations Director Tonette Salazar, co-author of the report. “It is likely the discussion around Common Core State Standards and assessments will continue into 2015 legislative sessions.”

The report also features an appendix of what all 50 states and D.C. are calling the new standards.

The Education Commission of the States was created by states, for states, in 1965. We track policy, translate research, provide unbiased advice and create opportunities for state policymakers to learn from one another.