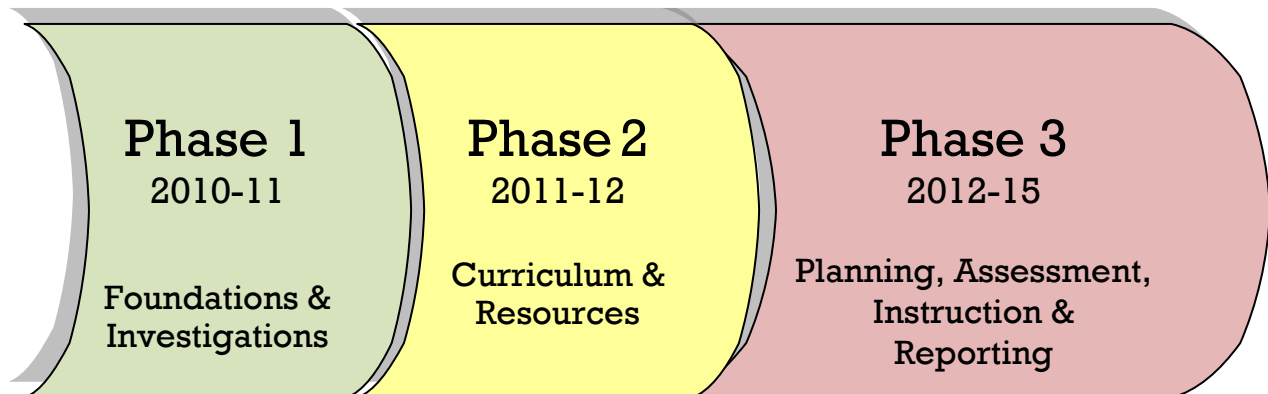


## Foundations Overview

There are three recommended phases of roll-out for full implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

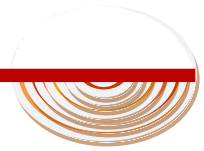
- Phase 1 begins with an understanding of the underpinnings and purposes of the CCSS foundations followed by investigations of specific standards.
- Phase 2 builds upon this foundation with work in curriculum development and alignment of local resources, assessments and instructional practices.
- Phase 3 extends the work into planning, instruction, assessment and reporting of progress.



### How to Use This Kit

This Foundations Kit provides a variety of resources for district leaders to create a common base of understanding about the CCSS. This kit includes a power point presentation, Q & A document, and other resources from the national CCSS center.

These materials are available in both print and electronic formats for your use. Contact your area CESA School Improvement representative for assistance and support with CCSS processes.



## 1. Mission of Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

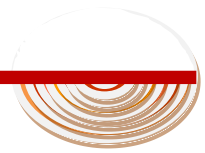
The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

## 2. Background and History of the Common Core Initiative

- Resulted from a voluntary effort on behalf of the *Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)* and the *National Governors Association (NGA) for Best Practices*.
- Developed by teams of educators and administrators from three primary organizations: *Achieve*, *ACT*, and the *College Board*.
- Reviewed by organizations such as: *NEA*, *AFT*, *International Reading Association (IRA)*, *NCTM*, and *NCTE*.
- Wisconsin State Superintendent Tony Evers formally adopted the newly released Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics for Wisconsin on June 2, 2010.

*“Wisconsin is ready to make the Common Core State Standards its academic standards for curriculum, instruction, and assessment,” Evers said. “These standards are aligned with college and career expectations, will ensure academic consistency throughout the state and across other states that adopt them, and have been benchmarked against international standards from high-performing countries. These English language arts and mathematics standards will serve as a solid foundation to ensure every child is a graduate ready for the workforce or postsecondary studies,” Evers said. “Higher student achievement is driven by rigorous standards, high-quality curriculum, and assessments that provide meaningful feedback to improve instruction.”*

- Potentially will affect 43.5 million students (87% of student population) in the United States.
- Will do away with the process of most states having their own unique set of standards and public education students learning at different levels in each state.



**Criteria used to develop the Common Core Standards:**

1. Fewer, clearer, and higher
2. Aligned with college and work expectations
3. Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills
4. Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards
5. Informed by top performing countries to better prepare students for success in a global economy and society
6. Evidenced and/or research-based
7. Realistic and practical for the classroom
8. Consistent across all states

**3. Advantages of the Common Core State Standards**

- The Common Core will help prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and careers.
- The Common Core will identify expectations that are consistent for all students.
- The Common Core standards have portability when students transition between states.
- The Common Core will help provide equal access to a standards-based education.
- The Common Core will result in clearer standards that will help students and parents understand what is expected of them; and thus allows for more self-directed learning by students.
- While the Common Core specifies the “what” teachers will teach, they will also provide opportunities for teachers to determine “how” they will teach.
- The Common Core will allow for more focused pre-service and professional development.



## Common Core State Standards Documents

Available at: <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

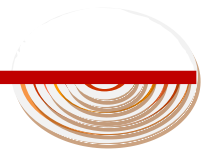
- *Introduction*
- *Application to Students with Disabilities*
- *Application to English Language Learners*
- *Common Core Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects*
  - ✓ *English Language Arts Appendix A: Research Supporting Key Elements of the Standards and Glossary of Terms*
  - ✓ *English Language Arts Appendix B: Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks*
  - ✓ *Appendix C: Samples of Student Writing*
- *Common Core Standards for Mathematics*
  - ✓ *Appendix A: Designing High School Mathematics Courses*

### 4. The English/Language Arts Standards

- The English/Language Arts standards aim to “lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the 21st century.”
- Design Elements:
  - Focus on results rather than means
  - An integrated model of literacy
  - Research and media skills integrated into standards as a whole
  - Shared responsibility for students’ literacy development
  - A progression of writing toward college and career readiness

### The Common Core Standards for English Language and Literacy

- Portrait of a Literate Student
- College and Career Readiness (CCR) Anchor Standards
- Grade Specific Standards (K-5 section; 6-8 section; 9-10 & 11-12 section)
  - ✓ Reading (Literature)
  - ✓ Reading (Informational Text)
  - ✓ Writing
  - ✓ Speaking and Listening
  - ✓ Language
- Reading Foundational Skills (K-3)
- Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects (6-12)



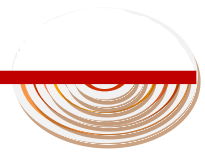
- Portrait of a Literate Student:
  - They demonstrate independence.
  - They build strong content knowledge.
  - They respond to varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.
  - They comprehend as well as critique.
  - They value evidence.
  - They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
  - They come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

## 5. The Mathematics Standards.

- The Mathematics standards attempt to avoid the charge of “mile wide, inch deep” treatment of mathematics. The standards carve out key ideas and emphasize conceptual understanding and place a priority on students’ ability to explain math problems, not simply compute them.
- The Mathematics standards define “what a student should understand and be able to do.” They were designed around how students develop mathematical concepts (e.g., functions, number sense, geometry).

### The Common Core Standards for Mathematics

- Mathematics Practices
- Grade Specific Standards (K-5 section; 6-8 section; High school section)
  - ✓ Narrative
  - ✓ Domain and Cluster
  - ✓ Standard
- High school standards specify the mathematics all students should learn in order to be college and career ready.
- Notations for the “modeling standard” and for standards beyond College and Career Readiness



- Standards for Mathematical Practice:
  - Attend to precision.
  - Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
  - Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
  - Look for and make use of structure.
  - Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
  - Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
  - Model with mathematics.
  - Use appropriate tools strategically.

## **6. Considerations**

- Teachers in grade level and department teams will need to collaborate as they investigate the CCSS in 2010-11.
- All administrators and coordinators must become very familiar with the standards and participate in investigation of the CCSS.
- Districts should not rush into alignment, but use this first year to investigate the standards and allow vendors to work on adapting materials for the CCSS.
- The CCSS is the basis for the upcoming new Wisconsin state assessment.
- The CCSS will “retool” teaching and learning.
- The CCSS will result in evaluation and modification of policies and practices needed to help students and educators meet the standards.