

COMMON CORE MYTHS and CONFUSION

OFFICE OF CATECHETICAL
FORMATION AND EDUCATION
Diocese of Cleveland

What is the CCSS?

- State-led effort
- An establishment of a single set of clear educational standards for K-12 in English Language Arts and Math
- An initiative voluntarily adopted by states



FACT

The nation's governors and education commissioners, through their representative organizations the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) led the development of the CCSS and continue to lead the initiative.



FACT

Teachers, parents, school administrators and experts from across the country together with state leaders provided input into the development of the standards.



The CCSS



- Designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit-bearing entry courses in two- or four-year college programs or enter the workforce
- Clear and concise to ensure that teachers, parents and students have a clear understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics in school

The CCSS were developed by the following criteria:

- Scholarly research
- Surveys on what skills are required of students entering college and workforce training programs
- Assessment data identifying college- and career-ready performance
- Comparisons to standards from high-performing states and nations



Criteria (continued)

- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) frameworks in reading and writing for English language arts
- Findings from Trends in International Mathematics and Science (TIMSS) and other studies concluding that the traditional U.S. mathematics curriculum must become substantially more coherent and focused in order to improve student achievement



What criteria guided the development of the CCSS?

- Alignment with expectations for college and career success
- Clarity
- Consistency across all states
- Inclusion of content and the application of knowledge through higher-order skills
- Improvement upon current state standards and standards of the top-performing nations
- Reality-based, for effective use in the classroom
- Evidence and research-based



CCSS Support



- 45.5 States
- Council of Chief State School Officers
- National Governors Association Center
- Achieve, Inc.
- College Board
- National Association of State Boards of Education

CCSS Support (continued)

- Alliance for Excellent Education
- Hunt Institute
- National Parent Teacher Association
- State Higher Education Executive Officers
- American Association of School Administrators
- Business Roundtable



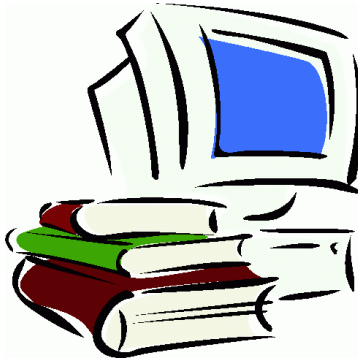
Why is the CCSS important?

- Provides a clear set of expectations across the states for teachers, parents and students
- Aligned to the expectations of colleges and careers
- Provides equity for all students
- Provides high expectations for all students
- Prepares all students to compete with their peers nationally and internationally



The CCSS enables collaboration among states.

- Development of textbooks, digital media and other teaching/learning materials aligned to the CCSS
- Development and implementation of common comprehensive assessment
- Discussion on changes and educator support for teaching to the CCSS



2013 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll



- 38% Have heard of the CCSS
- 45% Public school parents aware of the CCSS
- Almost 50% believe CCSS covers all subjects
- Nearly 56% feel the CCSS will make the U.S. education system less effective or have no effect

The Common Core:

What Teachers Really Think



58% feel "somewhat" prepared for the new standards.

14% feel "very" prepared.

23% don't feel prepared at all.

ABOUT HALF

are "very" or "somewhat" concerned about finding aligned resources for math, ELA, science and social studies.

ONLY 1 in 5

say their students' parents are aware of the Common Core.

TOP CONCERNS

- Understanding the standards
- Assessment
- Student engagement
- Lack of professional development

**Based on a July 2012 WeAreTeachers survey of 540 K-12 teachers.*



CCSS is state-led.



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some believe that the CCSS is a federal program that takes away the authority of the state to direct education.



FACT

- The CCSS is the result of U.S. governors determining that revised standards are needed in U.S. schools.
- States collaborated with teachers, researchers and leading experts to design and develop the CCSS.
- States made individual decisions to adopt the CCSS or not to adopt.



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FACT

- The U.S. Department of Education does support the CCSS.
- There are federal grants available for implementing the CCSS.
- The non-public schools are not eligible for such federal grants.
- Private student information is not provided to the federal government or its agents.

In the States

Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted the Common Core State Standards.



45 States have adopted the CCSS

Some factions in some states may be challenging the CCSS. Some Ohio representatives have introduced a bill challenging the CCSS.

FACT

- Ohio Adopted the CCSS in 2010.
- Full implementation is expected in 2014-2015.
- The Iowa Test of Basic Skills was aligned to the CCSS beginning 2011-2012.
- The ODE plans to discontinue the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA).



FACT



- The ODE has joined a consortium with 20 other states to use the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).
- The testing requirements for the non-public schools have not been announced as of October 2013.
- The Catholic Conference of Ohio is representing Ohio Catholic schools in the discussions/debates.

CCSS and All Subjects



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some people believe that the CCSS Initiative has developed standards for all subjects.

FACT

- CCSS Initiative is only English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.
- There are no plans for any other subjects to be added.
- In the future, there may be revisions to ELA and Math.
- Some states and educational organizations are revising other subjects with shifts similar to the CCSS for ELA and Math.



FACT

- The Ohio Department of Education is developing science and social studies standards that reflect depth of learning and similar shifts as the CCSS.
- Historically, the Ohio Department of Education routinely revises academic standards.
- ELA and Math CCSS have relevance to all subject areas across the curriculum.



FACT



- The Office of Catechetical Formation and Education (OCFE) historically examines the standards developed by the ODE and incorporates them into the curriculum.
- Historically, the OCFE curriculum extends beyond what is indicated by the ODE.
- Historically, the OCFE reviews the curriculum routinely, revising to maintain a challenging and rigorous curriculum infused with Catholic teaching.

FACT



- The Common Core State Standards were written to guide the curriculum.
- The Common Core State Standards are not curriculum.
- Districts use the standards to guide the writing of the curriculum.
- Many districts, including the Cleveland Diocese, extend the curriculum beyond the previous Ohio Academic Content Standards and the current CCSS.

CCSS and Catholic Teaching



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some people believe that the CCSS dictates the content of religion instruction in the Catholic schools.



FACT

- Catholic schools teach religion as directed by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church under the guidance of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the local bishop.
- Catholic schools strive to infuse Catholic Church teaching in all subjects.

Religion Instruction

Religion instruction can be enhanced by applying the skills developed in the CCSS.

- Reading
- Listening
- Speaking
- Writing

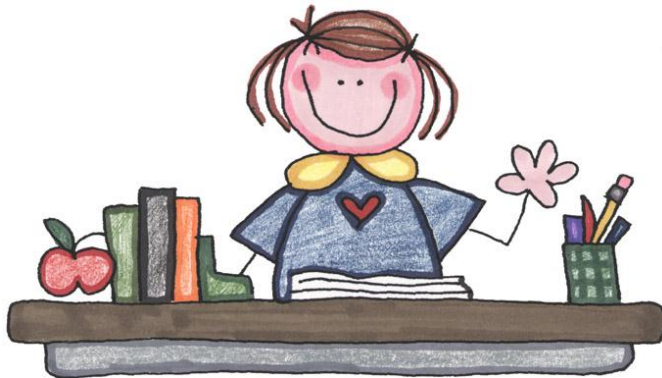


CCSS EXEMPLARS



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some people believe that the exemplars (recommended content selections) are required.



FACT

- Exemplars may be recommended by the CCSS, but they are not required.
- Some content, such as America's founding documents, is required.
- Schools/teachers will determine the content selections.
- Some exemplars may be inappropriate selections for Catholic schools.

CCSS and Previous Standards



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some people believe that the CCSS disregards all previous standards, including the ones that are in the best interest of student achievement and proven to be successful.

FACT

- The CCSS include best standards from the states, especially from those states with the highest student achievement records.
- Ohio ranks about 25th among the 50 states in student achievement.

CCSS and Teaching Practices



MYTH/CONFUSION

- Teachers in the Catholic schools are already doing the best practices suggested by the CCSS.

FACT

- Teachers may already be employing best practices suggested by the CCSS.
- Research and education experts have indicated best practices for many years.
- Some teachers will improve teaching practices as they incorporate the CCSS into their programs.

CCSS and How Teachers Teach



MYTH/CONFUSION

The CCSS dictate how teachers teach.



FACT

- The CCSS establish what students need to learn, but they do not dictate how teachers should teach.
- Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms.
- Teachers will continue to use methods of instruction that are researched best practices.

CCSS and Parents



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some educators believe that they should not discuss the CCSS with parents and other community members.



FACT

Educators are wise to

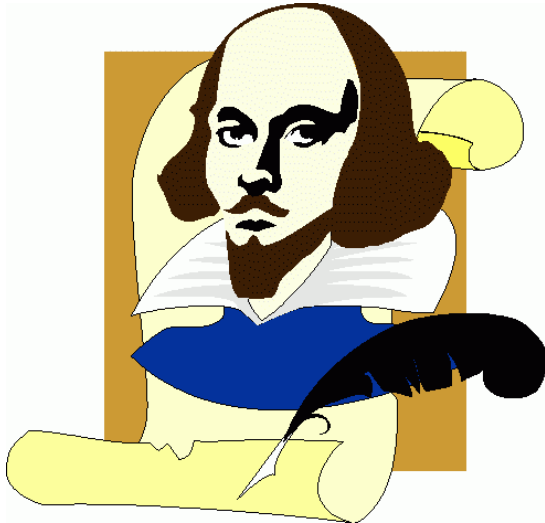
- Share with parents and the community what they learn about the CCSS.
- Encourage parents and the community to investigate legitimate CCSS resources (such as CCSS Initiative, the ODE and the National Parent Teacher Association).
- Solicit support and partnerships with parents and the community.

CCSS and Literature



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some people believe that informational text will replace the literature in the classroom.



FACT

- Literature will continue to be an integral part of the curriculum, especially in the ELA classroom.
- The study of how to comprehend and write informational text will increase, particularly in subjects such as science and social studies.

ELA Standards for Reading

- Use reading skills to understand key ideas and details
- Use reading skills to understand craft and structure
- Use reading skills to understand integration of knowledge and ideas
- Expand range of reading and increase level of comprehension of complex text



What is the Third Grade Guarantee?

- Ohio program for public districts and community schools
- Identifies students behind in reading from kindergarten through 3rd grade
- Schools provide help and support to make sure students are on track
- 90 minutes per day of reading instruction for students needing help to pass to the 4th grade
- Promotion upon successful achievement



Why don't the Catholic schools participate in the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee?



- Legislation applies to public entities only.
- Funding is not available to the non-public schools.
- A possible funding resource is Straight A Fund (Ohio)

ELA Standards for Writing

- Understand text types and purposes and demonstrate skill in writing all text types with purpose
- Produce clear and coherent writing demonstrating production and distribution of writing
- Understand how to research and build present knowledge and demonstrate competent research skills, analysis, reflection and coherent writing
- Write routinely over extended time frames, for a range of tasks, purposes and audiences.



Math Standards

In Mathematics the CCSS lay a solid foundation in

- Whole numbers
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Multiplication
- Division
- Fractions
- Decimals



Math Standards



- Support a student's ability to learn and apply more demanding math concepts and procedures
- Application of mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges (in middle school and high school)
- Prepare students to think and reason mathematically

CCSS and Math Standards



MYTH/CONFUSION

Some people believe that the math standards do not cover all the key math topics in the proper sequence.

FACT

- Mathematical progressions in the CCSS are coherent and based on evidence.
- Topics may move up and down through the grade levels across the country in this shift.
- The mathematical progression leads to college and career readiness at an internationally competitive level.

CCSS and Student Transition



MYTH/CONFUSION

- Some people believe that older students will be confused and will regress due to the shifts brought about by the CCSS.



FACT

- The CCSS begins a coherent progression in kindergarten that continues through 12th grade.
- 2014-2015 kindergarten students should have the optimum results upon high school graduation.
- Students in all grades should benefit from the shifts.

Resource

Many facts have been taken from the resource below.



Authors: National Governors Association
Center for Best Practices, Council of Chief
State School Officers

Title: Common Core State Standards
Frequently Asked Questions

Publisher: National Governors Association
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State School Officers, Washington D.C.

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