

Montana Common Core Standards

Parent Fact Sheet

WHAT ARE THE MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS?

The Common Core State Standards will replace our current state standards in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects, and mathematics. The Common Core State Standards are a set of high-quality academic expectations that define both the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to be on track for success in college and career. They were created through a state-led initiative and have been adopted by more than 40 states, including Montana.

- The standards establish **consistent** learning goals for all students – regardless of where they live – so that children will stay on track in school when moving from one state to another.
- With a **clear roadmap** of academic expectations, students, parents and teachers can work together toward shared goals.
- The standards are **relevant to the real world**, focusing on the knowledge and skills students will need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education and a globally competitive workforce.
- A diverse team of teachers, parents, administrators, researchers and content experts developed the Common Core to be **academically rigorous, attainable** for students, and **practical** for teachers and districts.
- The Montana Common Core Standards form a foundation for **literacy instruction** in history/social Studies, science, and technical subjects.

WHAT DO THE STANDARDS MEAN FOR ME?

- With the Common Core State Standards, parents will know exactly what their children should learn by the end of each grade level.
- Establishing clear expectations for students will better enable parents, teachers and students to work together toward shared goals.
- The Common Core shifts instructional intent from high school completion to college- and career-readiness for every student.
- When the standards are fully implemented, parents will see that each grade covers fewer topics, but teaches content in much greater depth.
- Over the next several years, curriculum and assessments will evolve to align with the Common Core.
- With the Common Core, parents can be assured that their students are learning to the same high quality standards as other students in Montana and across the country.

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO NOW?

The standards will be fully implemented in Montana by 2015. In the meantime, we can make changes to instruction that will prepare students for the Common Core while helping them succeed on current state assessments. In order to lay the groundwork for a smooth transition to the new standards, parents can ...

- Learn about the Common Core State Standards and Montana's transition plans.
- Meet with your child's teacher to discuss what your child will be learning over the coming year and how classroom instruction will shift to align to the Common Core.
- Play an active role in your child's education at home. If you notice your child is struggling in a certain area, consult with his or her teacher to identify strategies and resources that might be helpful.
- Educate other parents about the transition to the Common Core.
- Explore opportunities to become actively involved in the Common Core transition through your state and local Parent Teacher Association (PTA). PTAs in select cities throughout the country are holding sessions to help parents better understand the standards, and equip them with advocacy skills to support the standards' implementation.

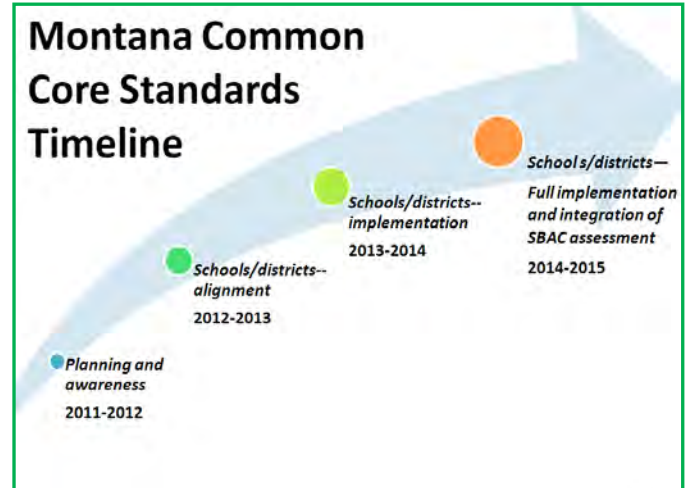


Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

October 2012

THE ROAD AHEAD ...

- As a fully state-led effort, implementation of the standards is completely in the hands of states and districts. However, many states are taking advantage of the opportunity to work together, particularly by participating in at least one of two coalitions – the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – to develop assessments that will include summative tests in addition to formative assessments. Montana is a member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. New assessments will be in place in 2014-2015 and will replace existing summative assessments in English Language Arts and math.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

- [Official Common Core State Standards Website](#)
- [Montana Common Core Standards- Office of Public Instruction](#)
- Videos on the Common Core Standards
 - [Common Core State Standards for ELA and Literacy](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Common Core State Standards for Mathematics](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Elementary K-5](#) (14 minutes)
 - [Middle School 6-8](#) (14 minutes)
 - [High School 9-12](#) (14 minutes)
- [SMARTER Balanced Assessment \(SBAC\) Consortium](#)
- [Common Core Standards Shifts](#)
- [PTA's Efforts Regarding the Common Core](#)
- PTA's Parents Guide to Student Success – Grade level parent guides to the Common Core Standards.

[Kindergarten](#)

[1st Grade](#)

[2nd Grade](#)

[3rd Grade](#)

[4th Grade](#)

[5th Grade](#)

[6th Grade](#)

[7th Grade](#)

[8th Grade](#)

[High School English](#)

[High School Math](#)

PRINT YOUR COPIES OF THE MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS

- [Montana Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects](#)
- [Montana Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice and Content](#)



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

October 2012