

# Missouri Learning Standards/Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessments

## Myth vs. Reality – July 2013

Myth	Reality
The federal government created the standards.	Creation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was a bipartisan state-led effort launched by state leaders including governors and state commissioners of education from more than 40 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia, though the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).
The federal government will use the standards to take control of education away from states.	<p>The standards are state led, and states will retain control of adopting and participating in the standards.</p> <p>The federal government has never reviewed or approved state standards, and they have NOT reviewed or approved these. Just like the standards we had in place before we adopted the CCSS, these are Missouri Learning Standards.</p>
The standards, because they were developed across the states, will “dumb down” the education students receive.	<p>The CCSS increase the level of rigor and relevance expected in the classroom. The standards also expect more application of knowledge to real world problems. Included in the standards are twenty-first century skills such as collaboration, communication, and technology usage.</p> <p>In English Language Arts (ELA), the expectations will increase as well. The Lexile level requirements, one measure of text difficulty based on word and sentence length, will increase in grades 2-12. Raymore-Peculiar has been preparing by transitioning elementary and intermediate school libraries by relabeling of book Lexiles.</p> <p>The mathematical progressions are evidenced based and build upon students’ mastery of skills. The progression leads to college and career readiness at an internationally competitive level.</p>

<p>The standards tell teachers how to teach.</p>	<p>The standards define what students need to know, but they don't tell teachers how to teach or how students should learn.</p>
<p>The standards dictate curriculum to schools.</p>	<p>There is no required state curriculum in Missouri. Local school districts choose their own curriculum. Raymore-Peculiar has been consistently updating curriculum. Therefore, we have aligned our curriculum to the ELA and Math CCSS in 2012-2013 for implementation in 2013-2014. Teacher leaders guide curriculum writing under the direction of the Department of Academic Services.</p>
<p>The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not have the legal authority to adopt the Common Core State Standards.</p>	<p>In the Missouri Outstanding School Act, under Missouri Revised statute 160.514, the State Board of Education is given the legal authority to adopt "academic performance standards." The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recommended to the State Board of Education that Missouri adopt the CCSS. The State Board of Education approved the adoption on June 15, 2010.</p>
<p>The standards don't have enough emphasis on fiction/literature.</p>	<p>The standards include America's founding documents, Shakespeare, foundational American literature and more. The decisions on additional literature are left up to local districts. However, college and career readiness focuses on student mastery of complex texts. The standards require more nonfiction reading and writing in other subject areas like science, social studies and fine arts.</p>
<p>The mathematics standards have subjects missing or in the wrong grade.</p>	<p>In math, many of the concepts are shifting to lower grade levels by providing students with a solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, and decimals. Building a strong foundation will help students successfully apply more demanding math concepts.</p> <p>Raymore-Peculiar is committed to increasing student enrollment in Algebra in middle school; this will also provide more students the opportunity to take higher level math in high school.</p>

<p>CCSS is part of an effort to collect personal student and family data which will be shared between different federal departments.</p>	<p>The adoption of the CCSS has not increased the reporting requirements of school districts. Missouri schools have been collecting and reporting data to the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education since 1989. This data is used for education accreditation/accountability purposes and for related federal programs. Federal programs that require the collection of data are Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA - Special Education); Federal Title Programs; School Food Services; Migrant Education Programs; and Carl Perkins Career Technical Education.</p> <p>The types of data collected include a MOSIS student identification number, birth date, and name. Information such as student social security numbers, addresses, or parent's political affiliation is not collected.</p>
<p>Two consortia have developed on-line assessments that are slated to replace the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) test, but at a greater cost. Estimates put that cost at more than two times the cost of MAP tests. The on-line requirement will cause school districts to spend a large amount of money on technology.</p>	<p>The assessment issue is separate from the standards. The state does not have to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessments if they cannot afford to do so. If the state chooses not to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, they can instead provide state written assessments aligned to the CCSS.</p>
<p>Only English and Math standards are being crafted for the CCSS. Social Studies and Science Standards development might be far down the road.</p>	<p>Several organizations have come together to write Next Generation Science Standards: the National Research Council, National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Achieve.</p> <p>During the writing process, Raymore-Peculiar teachers and administrators have reviewed and provided feedback on these standards. The standards were finalized June of 2013. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will decide if they will adopt the standards to replace the Missouri Grade Level Expectations.</p> <p>The Council of Chief State School Officers (which includes representation from state departments of education) is developing a College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Inquiry in Social Studies State Standards.</p>