

Common Core State Standards

PROS

- Because the Common Core State Standards are internationally benchmarked, our standards will be comparable to standards in other countries. Since the US has fallen behind some countries over the past few years, many believe that CCSS will help improve the rankings with other countries.
- Professional development for teachers and for the entire education community will improve because all teachers will be teaching to the same standards.
- Common Core State Standards will cause states to save money on creating and scoring tests. Since all states that adopt CCSS will use the same standards, they can also share on the development of state tests.
- Common Core State Standards assessments will cover multiple skills in each question and therefore will increase critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- With a tool to monitor students' progress throughout the year, Common Core State Standards assessments will allow teachers to track the child's progress instead of making comparisons to other students.
- Since Common Core State Standards will be used in most states, students with high mobility will be positively impacted – if they move from one state to another, their studies will match up better.
- Common Core State Standards define what students are expected to learn, with the added benefit of students understanding what they are learning and why.

CONS

- It will take time for both students and teachers to adjust to the New Common Core State Standards, and the transition will be difficult. CCSS will require new ways of teaching and learning.
- Right now the Common Core Standards are broad and not very specific, and it will take some time to achieve specificity.
- With higher-level thinking skills, Common Core Standards will cause academic rigor to start earlier than ever, even in pre-kindergarten. Many people do not see this as a good thing.
- Because Common Core State Standards assessments will be on-line, school districts will be forced to spend more on technology and to be sure all students have access to these tools.
- Common Core State Standards will lead to even more high-stakes testing, at a time when many parents are already fighting the over-use of testing and opting out their children.
- While the Common Core State Standards will bring most states into an alignment of the same standards, some states that had higher standards will actually have to accept lower standards.
- Current accountability systems allow for different testing instruments to be used for students with special needs. Common Core State Standards does not have such an assessment, and all children's results will be reported for accountability purposes.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The multi-assessment feature of Common Core State Standards will go well beyond choosing the right multiple choice answers. Students will have to come up with their own answers and defend them, ensuring the development of high-level thinking skills.• Common Core State Standards will increase rigor in the classroom.• Common Core State Standards will allow for the same standards and assessment of those standards in most states. Previously, each state has set their own standards and assessments, with some states adopting higher standards than others. This will bring all into the same standards and will allow states to be compared accurately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Common Core State Standards will require tools, technology and textbooks that are aligned with the standards, thus making many current materials obsolete. This will be expensive to fix.• Common Core State Standards cover only the subjects of English-language arts and mathematics. This means that there are no standards for science or social studies. States will have to create their own in those areas, which will lead again to multiple levels of standards across the country.• Many teachers and administrators may leave the profession rather than deal with the massive changes that will come with CCSS. In addition to having to change how they teach and conduct schools, CCSS will cause teachers to feel more pressure for student performance and accountability – already a reason that many teachers are leaving.
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Information Source: *Parents for Public Schools, Inc.*
www.parents4publicschools.org