

**What are the Common Core State Standards?** They outline 85% of what English Language Arts and math students will know and be able to do at each grade level, K-12, including English Language Arts skills in social studies, science, and other technical subjects. Michigan schools are being asked to use the Common Core State Standards beginning with the 2011-12 school year. Science content standards are being developed as part of a separate project.

The standards were written with career and college expectations in mind. They are focused, consistent, and easy to understand. The focus is on rigorous content and using higher-order skills. They were developed using information from top performing states and countries. Updates will be made continually as the research dictates. These standards are intended for students in general and special education classes and those learning the English Language.

The Standards are NOT a dictate for how to teach, which textbooks or materials to use, or what interventions to use. They do not dictate the order in which skills are taught within a grade and they do not include everything schools will teach students.

**How will the new standards differ from the old?** In English Language Arts there is a much greater focus on non-fiction reading and writing. In math there are some changes in content and the grade at which some skills are taught. The biggest difference in both math and ELA is likely to be the level at which students are expected to perform.

**Who is involved?** So far, 48 states and territories, including the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands, have adopted the Standards. This is a state, not national, initiative. For a complete list, visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

**How will learning be tested?** Students will continue to take the MEAP or MME test through 2013-14. In 2012-13, GLCEs and HSCEs that are not in the CCSS will not count against students. Beginning in 2014-15, Grade 3-8 and 11 students will be tested at the end of each school year on the CCSS. Schools may also opt to administer an interim test earlier in the year or create tests that focus on specific areas using a digital library. Most or all of the test will be taken on a computer with Internet access. Tests are being developed through the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. For more information, visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/>

**How will the new test compare to the old?** Students will take a computer adaptive assessment. It will likely be shorter than the old paper-pencil test, but will assess how well students can apply skills and knowledge in performance assessments. The increased cut scores (lowest score possible to “pass” the MEAP or MME) in the Fall 2011 (Grades 3-8) and Spring 2012 (Grade 11) have given us a better picture of the percentage of students likely to achieve proficiency on the SMARTER assessment in 2014-15.

## What references were used to gather this information?

1. Michigan Department of Education – [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde)
2. Common Core State Standards – [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) and [www.commoncore.org](http://www.commoncore.org)
3. State Higher Ed. Exec. Officers [www.sheeo.org](http://www.sheeo.org)

Where can I find the CCSS and the Appendices? Visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)



Click on "The Standards" in the upper right-hand corner to print just certain grades or sections.

Click on ELA or math standards at the bottom of the homepage to print the entire set of standards, K-12

Download files by clicking a specific appendix or the K-12 standards for math or ELA



Click here to access specific grades, broken down by topic within each domain, as shown below



ELA teachers will want to study Appendix A and the Common Core State Standards for their grade, as well as the grades above and below those that they teach. Appendix B includes sample texts and performance tasks while Appendix C includes samples of student writing. ELA teachers will want the examples pertinent to their grade(s) and possibly one grade above and below.

Teachers of K-5 History/Social Studies, Science and other Technical Subjects will want copies of the Introduction, Reading Standards for Informational Text, Writing Standards, Speaking and Listening Standards, and Standard 10: Range, Quality, and Complexity of Student Reading.

Teachers of Grades 6-12 History/Social Studies, Science and other Technical Subjects will want copies of the Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

Math teachers will want to study the Common Core State Standards for their grade/course. Mathematics Appendix A is for secondary teachers and focuses on course development.