

Oregon's Common Core

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(online version with active links can be found here:

<http://blog.chalkboardproject.org/student-success/oregons-common-core/#more-2584>)



In Oregon, we know a lot about lumber. A tree's core is where it grows from and gets its strength. On a similar track, the core K–12 subjects of English Language Arts and math are essential for students to learn if they are going to be ready for college and/or careers.

That's why we are proud Oregon decided, on its own, to adopt the Common Core State Standards. These math and English Language Arts standards are statements of the knowledge and skills that students need to master in order to be prepared for college and/or the workforce.

Our neighbors in California, Washington, Idaho and Nevada also have adopted the Common Core State Standards, as has almost every state. They were created through a voluntary, collective effort by states because the people closest to our communities and schools know what's needed. In fact, teachers and administrators in our state, including principals and superintendents, are deciding how the standards are to be taught and will establish the curriculum.

It's clear we need to raise the bar in our classrooms. International exams show that American teens are stagnant when compared to their peers in reading, math and science over the last 10 years. In Oregon, we continue to receive dismal [report cards](#) from independent reviewers.

Common Core is an important change. A think tank [compared](#) Oregon's current standards to Common Core and found the new ones superior. Chalkboard initiatives, such as [CLASS](#) and [TeachOregon](#), will play important roles in bringing these standards to life.

For instance, the CLASS Project is focused on pursuing collaborative teacher effectiveness strategies. As more and more teachers use these strategies, it'll help students reach the higher, consistent standards.

TeachOregon is comprised of partnerships between school districts, universities and their College of Education Teacher Preparation Programs. Through the partnerships, teacher candidates work side by side with trained clinical (cooperating) teachers during their clinical experience. This means new teachers will be ready to teach using the standards from day one.

You can learn more about the progress at this [website](#) from the Oregon Department of Education.

Educators are teaching to these standards right now. We fully expect the new assessments, tied to the Common Core, to take several years to implement. Regardless of this roll out, Common Core will be the foundation for a more engaging educational experience for all students. This is a guarantee that we believe all Oregonians must make to students.