



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: May 25-26, 2010
SUBJECT: Common Core Standards

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to provide you with an update on the Common Core State Standards Initiative, specifically the timeline between now and the final release.

BACKGROUND:

In a collaborative effort 48 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia committed to developing a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. This state-led effort has been coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) with input from ACT, College Board, Achieve Inc., NASBE and State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO). Maryland's commitment to be a part of this effort was made public in a press release in June 2009.

The work for Common Core Standards began with the college and career ready standards. The first draft version for the college and career ready standards was made available for feedback in July 2009. MSDE invited representatives from higher education to participate in the initial review and provide feedback to the Common Core writers. In October 2009 there was an opportunity for public feedback and the resulting document was posted in draft version on the common core website, <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

The K-12 Common Core documents have had two formal opportunities for feedback from MSDE curriculum staff and other invited organizations. The writers have been very responsive to the feedback that was provided and are now revising the documents based on feedback obtained during the public reaction period.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The feedback received on the draft K-12 standards from both the public survey and the states has far surpassed what CCSSO and NGA expected. As a result of this feedback and conversations with the writing teams, CCSSO and NGA have decided to set the date of the final release for June 2.



A final draft of the English language arts K-12 standards was shared with States on Friday, May 14 and a final draft of the math K-12 standards on Monday, May 24. This preview of the final standards reflects the detailed and substantial feedback from the states, which has improved an already very strong set of standards.

Timeline

- May 14, 2010 – States will receive the final draft of the K-12 ELA standards. The standards will not in the final designed format and will not include the appendices. The Appendices will be distributed with the final designed standards on June 1.
- May 18, 2010 – ELA content finalized for design.
- May 24, 2010 – States will receive the final draft of the K-12 math standards. The standards will not be in the final designed format.
- May 26, 2010 – Math content finalized for design.
- June 1, 2010 – States will receive and embargoed copy of the final designed standards of both the ELA and math standards.
- June 2, 2010 – Final release of the Common Core State Standards.

ACTION:

In anticipation of the State Board review and formal action on the Common Core State Standards in June, I am recommending that the State Board of Education endorse the Common Core Standards today.

NSG/cps