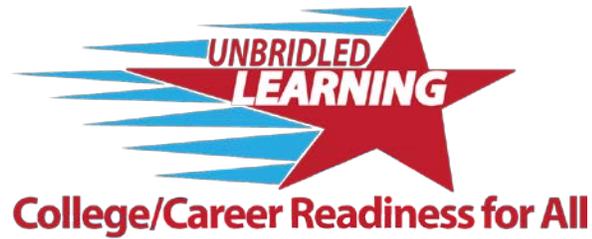


Why Administrators Support the Common Core (Kentucky Core Academic Standards)

Common Core is working!

Since implementation of the Common Core (Kentucky Core Academic Standards), we've seen improved college/career-readiness rates, improved graduation rates, lower remediation costs and more successful transitions to college and career.



Common Core is the anchor in an integrated system of improvement that will provide a world-class education for all Kentucky students.

Rigorous standards, aligned assessments, teacher and leader effectiveness, and professional learning and growth of our educators all work together to maximize student potential and ensure college/career-readiness for all students. The system promotes:

- deeper understanding of the key concepts students need to succeed as independent thinkers
- students' ability to apply knowledge to real-world situations
- instruction that places more emphasis on understanding and application than memorization and test taking

The Common Core allows for local decision making.

The standards provide a framework for learning expectations in each grade; they do not dictate curriculum. The Kentucky Board of Education is responsible for establishing standards in the various content areas. Local school boards, administrators and teachers are responsible for determining how to teach the standards, including selection of instructional materials and instructional practices.

The new standards are aligned with college and workforce expectations and establish clear expectations for students, including the ability to:

- apply math in real-world situations
- read and analyze both literature and informational text
- construct viable arguments and critique reasoning of others
- solve problems
- communicate effectively

Common Core is great for teachers.

The standards encourage a new approach to teaching where educators facilitate students' learning rather than spoon-feeding them information -- making students more responsible for their own learning.

Common standards make it easier to collaborate and to develop and share lessons, resources and what works in the classroom. This allows teachers to more easily individualize instruction to meet student needs and frees them up to create new, innovative and more effective ways to actively engage students in the learning process.



Common Core assessments more accurately reflect student preparation than previous state tests.

- Test scores dropped the first year under the Common Core, because the standard changed from basic proficiency to college- and career-readiness, which demands more of our students.
- Scores will be low for a few years but start improving the longer the standards are taught. Remember we've raised the bar. Just like a high jumper who is used to clearing six feet, if the bar goes up to 12 feet, it takes them a while to learn what they have to do to clear it. They have to train and refine their technique. It will take time for teachers and students to get used to the more rigorous standards and the kind of teaching and learning they demand. Scores should start to rebound as students build a stronger foundational knowledge based on the standards and educators gain greater experience teaching them.
- The college- and career-readiness standard is aligned with postsecondary expectations and requires more than rote memorization for tests. Students are required to think critically, reason, solve problems – skills they must learn and that will serve them well in the long run.
- With the new tests and accountability system, you should be able to tell as early as 3rd grade if a student is on track for college/career-readiness and if not, determine what kind of interventions are needed.
- The results of the Kentucky assessments are more closely aligned to results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Those results report proficiency at a much higher level than most state tests. Being proficient on NAEP is similar to our new college- and career-ready proficiency. One could say that proficiency on NAEP and the new K-PREP is similar to getting a B or B+ and being advanced/distinguished is similar to an A.
- This is the first step on a path of continuous improvement for districts, schools, teachers and students.
- Stay the course and don't get discouraged. This is the right thing for kids to ensure they are ready for college/career and to compete in a global economy.
- The data from K-PREP and End-of-Course exams are crucial to planning and improvement – for our schools, districts and the state.
- Remember, our focus is on college/career-readiness for all students. Progress toward that goal is being made as reflected in our college/career-readiness rate.

Despite what detractors want you to believe, Common Core has a lot of support in Kentucky.

A recent poll by the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) revealed more than 90 percent of school boards support Common Core; TELL KY Survey results show that 97 percent of teachers are teaching curriculum aligned with Common Core.

