

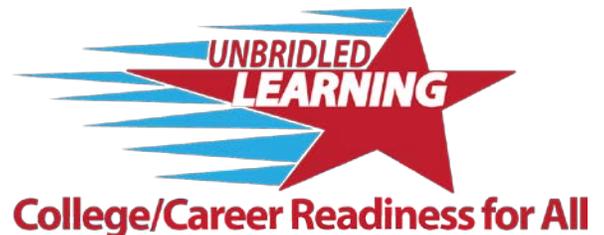
Top **10** Reasons to Support the Common Core (Kentucky Core Academic Standards)

Kentucky joined with 47 other states and leading content experts from across the country to develop new, more rigorous, common academic standards. The standards define what students need to know for success in college and/or the postsecondary training they need to compete for 21st-century jobs.

In February 2010, the Kentucky Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards as the [Kentucky Core Academic Standards](#), and they were implemented without significant objection. Kentucky educators made them their own by establishing targets for learning and translating the standards into language that teachers, parents and students could understand. The Common Core in English/language arts and mathematics have been taught in Kentucky classrooms since the 2011-12 school year.

1. **Common Core is working!**

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



2. **Kentucky had a voice in Common Core development.**

Kentucky educators and the public provided input into the development of the standards so we, as a state, helped determine what they cover. Kentucky's constitution calls for the state to establish a system of common schools, and common standards, as adopted by the Kentucky Board of Education, provide an equal opportunity for all students in the state to get a quality education.

3. **Local schools are empowered to make decisions about implementing the Common Core.**

The Common Core doesn't change Kentucky law that gives school councils the responsibility to decide curriculum and how students will be taught. It's up to the local schools to decide how the standards should be taught and to develop the curriculum and resources to help students learn the content and develop the skills needed for success.

4. **Common Core is more challenging.**

The new standards are more rigorous than Kentucky's previous standards and on par with what are taught in leading countries around the world. Common Core ensures students here in Kentucky and nationwide, are taught to higher minimum standards than before. In the past, many other states -- not including Kentucky -- adopted lower standards in order to appear more successful under No Child Left Behind. With Common Core, students are ensured the opportunity to learn the skills that are deemed most important and relevant to the world today.



5. **Common Core is great for students.**

It promotes creative and critical thinking over rote memorization, and prepares students with the collaboration, creativity and communication skills that the workplace demands. By developing students' ability to think, reason and problem solve, they can internalize their knowledge and apply it to various situations rather than just regurgitate it for a test. Common Core better prepares students for success at every grade level and after graduation from high school. Students who graduate college- and career-ready are more apt to complete college or postsecondary training and land higher paying jobs.

6. **Common Core is great for teachers.**

The standards are clear, focused and easy for teachers and students to understand. In addition, common standards encourage teachers to collaborate, 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.

7. **Common Core is great for parents.**

Because the Common Core is aligned with college- and career-expectations, students are better prepared for the demands they face after high school. College costs are reduced because there is less need for costly, remedial, non-credit bearing courses. Students are better prepared for success and are more likely to earn a college degree and/or land a job paying a living wage.

8. **Common Core is great for business and will move Kentucky forward.**

These higher standards prepare students, our future workforce, with the skills that the workplace demands. A better prepared, more highly skilled workforce attracts new businesses to the state and allows current businesses to hire employees that are ready to work rather than having to spend money on extensive training or leaving jobs unfilled.

9. **Common Core is great for taxpayers.**

By working with other states, Kentucky was able to develop and implement new college- and career-ready standards mandated by the Kentucky General Assembly and Senate Bill 1 (2009) at a much lower cost than doing this solely on our own.

Plus, students who graduate from high school ready for college/career are more likely to be employed, pay taxes and have a positive impact on the state's economy. They are less likely to be dependent on state-supported unemployment, welfare and health care benefits or end up in the prison system. This will have a positive impact on our long-term economy.

10. **Abandoning the Common Core will be very costly to Kentucky taxpayers and have a negative impact on educators and students.**

Since Senate Bill 1 (2009) requires new standards, we estimate it would take a minimum of \$35 million to develop, train teachers, and implement replacement standards in English/language arts and mathematics.

Kentucky's schools and districts have already invested money and time implementing the Common Core. Teachers have embraced the challenge of new standards and are working to help students master the more challenging content. Abandoning the Common Core would be a huge lost opportunity for our students.