

Supportive Common Core State Standards Quotes

POLICYMAKERS

“These Common Core State Standards evolved as governors and state leaders were talking about what we could do together to raise standards--not a Washington solution, but a voluntary effort on the part of the leaders of the states. In fact conversations about these standards began long before President Obama occupied the White House...Common Core State Standards are a state driven solution to address the large number of high school graduates who have to take remedial courses in college...Imagine finding out your child’s ACT test score wasn’t high enough to get her into college, or that she if she did get in, ended up taking two semesters worth of classes that don’t count toward her college degree. That means you’re paying university prices for what your child was supposed to learn for free in high school.”¹

– **Mike Huckabee**, former Governor of Arkansas
June 3, 2013

“Today, all students—not just top students—need to master math, science, English, and social studies and learn skills in problem solving, thinking creatively and communicating clearly. Our goal can’t just be for Iowa students to be best in the nation again. We must make sure Iowa students can compete with young people in countries with the highest-performing schools. Our youngsters deserve to be as well educated as those in Canada, Japan and Australia, among other places.”²

– **Terry Branstad**, Governor of Iowa
July 25, 2011

“Under my leadership and the leadership of the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Arizona adopted more rigorous standards in late June 2010. These standards represent a significant improvement over Arizona’s current standards and were developed by governors and other education leaders from the best standards across the nation through the “common core” program.”³

– **Jan Brewer**, Governor of Arizona

“These standards, the Common Core standards, are clear and straightforward. They will allow for more innovation in the classroom, less regulation, they’ll equip students to compete with their peers from across the globe.”⁴

– **Jeb Bush**, former Governor of Florida
May 30, 2013

“The Common Core State Standards are an example of states recognizing a problem, then working together, sharing what works and what doesn’t.”⁵

– **Jeb Bush**, former Governor of Florida and **Joel Klein**, former Chancellor of the New York City Public Schools
June 23, 2011

¹ <https://d3dsx5kjrufiy.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/Huckabee-2013-Oklahoma-Common-Core-Letter.pdf>

² *Des Moines Register*: <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2011/07/25/branstad-calls-for-increasing-iowas-academic-standards/>

³ <http://janbrewer.com/on-the-issues/improving-our-schools>

⁴ http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2013/05/national_education_leaders_war.html

⁵ *Wall Street Journal*: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304070104576399532217616502.html>

“The Common Core State Standards are a building block in our state’s education system meant to ensure that teachers and districts can innovate within a framework of high expectations and accountability. They are based on the fundamental belief that every child in every classroom deserves an education that will properly equip them with the skills they need for college and a career. Our aggressive implementation of these standards in partnership with districts will ensure that our children have an education that will serve them well in the next stages of their lives.”⁶

– **Chris Christie**, Governor of New Jersey
September 13, 2011

BUSINESS LEADERS

“As America’s business leaders, we firmly believe that the Common Core State Standards are critical to building and maintaining an American workforce that can compete in the global economy, and we believe their adoption and implementation are inextricably linked to the success of our nation and our children.”⁷

– **Governor John Engler**, president of the Business Roundtable
May 10, 2013

“World class academic standards are helping ensure that every single student is held to the same high expectations—and given the solid educational foundation—they need to succeed in both school and career. We now look beyond just aggregate and average figures; we also look at subgroups of students, like English Language Learners, who may need more support to reach higher standards. We are accurately reporting graduation rates. And we are bringing renewed priority to improving our nation's lowest performing schools.”⁸

– **Ed Rust**, chairman and CEO of State Farm Mutual
March 30, 2013

“Good paying jobs are going unfilled because U.S. workers don’t have the skills for the positions. The Common Core State Standards are part of the solution and ensuring educators...know how to implement them is absolutely critical.”⁹

– **Robert Corcoran**, president and chairman of the GE Foundation
July 13, 2012

“The standards are a staircase, and each step equips you to do more complex tasks...Their purpose is to create great learners, not to transmit facts. As long as we all want our students to be able to read complex text and solve difficult equations, the Common Core State Standards should not be controversial.”¹⁰

– **Bill Gates**, co-chair Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
July 11, 2012

“As a former CEO of a Fortune 500 company, I know that common education standards are essential for producing the educated work force America needs to remain globally competitive. Good standards alone are not enough, but without them decisions about such things as curricula, instructional materials and tests are haphazard. It is no wonder that educational quality varies so widely among states.”¹¹

– **Craig Barrett**, former CEO, Intel Corp.
April 6, 2010

⁶ Office of the Governor of New Jersey: <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552011/approved/20110913a.html>

⁷ Business Roundtable: <http://businessroundtable.org/news-center/brt-letter-to-republican-national-committee-supporting-common-core-sta/>

⁸ http://www.cnn.com/id/100598059#_gus

⁹ *The Stamford Times*: http://www.thehour.com/stamford-times/news/stamford-educators-heading-south-for-conference/article_edf614d0-ccfe-11e1-89d9-001a4bcf6878.html

¹⁰ Bill Gates Speech to the Education Commission of the States, July 11, 2012.

¹¹ *Wall Street Journal*: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304017404575165682594015398.html?_requestid=110713

“The CCSS are elegant, clear and consistent -- and they will enable those who wish to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to go farther faster.”¹²

– **Craig Barrett**, former CEO, IntelCorp., and **Michael Cohen**, Achieve
June 30, 2013

“Since the release of *A Nation at Risk* in 1983, it has been increasingly clear that despite incremental reforms and progress in some states and school districts, academic expectations for American students have not been high enough. K-12 education in the United States leaves far too many students unprepared for postsecondary education and the 21st century workplace. There is no reason why students in the United States should not achieve at the same levels as their international peers in high-performing countries.”¹³

– **John J. Castellani**, President and CEO, Business Roundtable (BRT)
March 10, 2010

MILITARY LEADERS

“Like the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children that provides common guidelines for states to follow in handling issues that impact children of military families as they transition between schools, the rigor of the proposed academic Common Core Standards will be a benefit to military dependent students everywhere.”¹⁴

– **Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley**, Commanding General,
United States Army Accessions Command

“I am deeply proud of all those who have served our state and country and of the 19,000 current members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. But I am alarmed about the reduced number of young men and women who can meet all of the qualifications required to serve in our Armed Forces. Too many high school graduates do not have the skills the military needs. Pennsylvania’s Common Core Standards will help ensure that students are receiving a high-quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state.”¹⁵

–**Gen. Wesley Craig**, Adjutant General Major, Pennsylvania, United States Army
May 14, 2013

EDUCATORS

“The CCSS in the hands of an effective educator will prepare our students for college and career. Many naysayers claim that the standards present a one-size-fits-all approach to education and that it just won’t work for our special education students. This just isn’t true. In fact, the learning progressions in the CCSS actually offer teachers a much more targeted way to identify a student’s areas of need. Previous curricula lacked any meaningful coherence between grade levels or within subject areas.”¹⁶

– **Greg Mullenholz**, Math Content Coach and a 2013 Hope Street Group National Teacher Fellow
June 26, 2013

“I’m originally from another state. The biggest thing is, if I’m in the state of Florida, I also know that children in another state are also learning this information. So it’s leveling the playing field and closing the achievement

¹² *Orlando Sentinel*: http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2013-06-30/news/os-ed-common-core-standards-063013-20130701_1_new-standards-ccss-higher-education

¹³ *Business Wire*: http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20100310006782&newsLang=en

¹⁴ http://www.corestandards.org/assets/ccsi_statements/StatementArmy.pdf

¹⁵ <http://www.missionreadiness.org/2013/military-business-leaders-support-pennsylvania-common-core-standards-to-ensure-future-national-and-economic-security/>

¹⁶ <http://www.takepart.com/article/2013/06/26/op-ed-inclusion-common-core-good-students-special-education>

gap. No matter where you're at, no matter what socioeconomic level you're working on, no matter where you grew up... this is what every child at first grade should know no matter what."¹⁷

– **Angela Maxey**, principal, Sallye B. Mathis Elementary School, Florida
July 5, 2013

"When I look at the standards, I don't see a document that tells me what to teach or gives me a curriculum; rather, I see an underlying organization that gives us collective purpose."¹⁸

– **Sarah Brown Wessling**, 2010 National Teacher of the Year and Teacher, Johnston High School
September 17, 2012

"To me, the Common Core represents an empowering opportunity for teachers to collaborate, exchange best practices and share differing curricula – because a common set of standards is not the same thing as a common curriculum."¹⁹

– **Darren Burris**, Teacher, Boston Collegiate Charter School
March 6, 2012

"...Common Core standards has exponential advantages for our communities and families by graduating career- and college-ready students who can think globally and problem solve creatively and collaboratively. By graduating a pool of capable work-ready employees, Tennessee will attract new businesses to our state and continue to grow already established businesses. Successful, lucrative employment is the key to keeping our communities alive and vibrant, and through our continued drive and initiative, we can help make it happen."²⁰

– **Melanie Amburn**, Elementary Supervisor of Instruction, Loudon County Schools
August 10, 2012

"The K-12 standards work recognizes that students in the United States are now competing in an international environment and will need to meet international benchmarks to remain relevant in today's workplace. We are pleased that both college and career readiness have been considered as the standards were developed and view this work as foundational in the effort to address the full range of academic, employability and technical skills that students need to be successful. ACTE looks forward to working with NGA, CCSO and states as the K-12 standards are implemented."²¹

– **Janet B. Bray**, CAE, Executive Director, Association for Career and Technical Education
June 2, 2010

"For years we have struggled to articulate expectations and standards to help all students achieve their full potential. In particular, we have struggled to align student learning at the end of high school with the demands of college-level work, beginning with core areas such as mathematics and language arts. This task has become more of an obligation as we open the doors of higher education to more students, and it has become more important as we seek to ensure student success, increase education attainment, and meet the demands of a competitive workplace and global economy. Clear learning goals for these fundamental skills through K-12 education will give students and teachers a better roadmap toward the goal of success in college and life."²²

– **Paul E. Lingenfelter**, President, State Higher Education Executive Officers
June 2, 2010

¹⁷ <http://stateimpact.npr.org/florida/2013/07/05/why-one-principal-thinks-the-common-core-is-part-of-an-equitable-education/>

¹⁸ *Washington Post Answer Sheet*: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/a-defense-of-common-core-state-standards/2012/09/16/94b8f2fa-0072-11e2-b260-32f4a8db9b7e_blog.html

¹⁹ *The Hechinger Report*: http://hechingerreport.org/content/there-are-no-miracles-but-there-are-teachers-an-educators-view-on-the-common-core_8045/

²⁰ *The SCORE Sheet*: <http://thescoresheet.org/2012/08/10/the-most-necessary-ingredient-for-successful-implementation-of-the-common-core-standards/#more-4776>

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² Retrieved from CoreStandards.org 12/20/11

“It only makes sense that we have some platform of expectations in terms of rigorous common standards in core subjects across this nation if we’re going to be able to reasonably compare achievement, progress, and learning.”²³

– **Kay Persichitte**, Dean, University of Wyoming College of Education
April 5, 2010

“The Common Core State Standards in mathematics (CCSSM) are the first step in an ambitious undertaking to create a system where all students meet the same, challenging expectations.”²⁴

– **Dr. Hung-Hsi Wu**, Professor of Mathematics, University of California at Berkeley
September 20, 2012

PARENTS

“Common Core creates equal footing for graduating students in participating states. However, there is one group of students who are near and dear to my heart that will particularly benefit — military-connected children...Essentially, Common Core standardizes expected education outcomes across the country but leaves room for teacher creativity in implementing the standards. For a military-connected student, education standardization is a good thing.”²⁵

– **Amy Zink**, Parent
August 28, 2012

“The best and most exciting points that the standards establish is what students need to learn, but they will not dictate how teachers should teach. Instead, schools and teachers will collaborate and decide how best to assist students in reaching their highest potential through critical thinking and problem solving skills to reach the standards. The consistency of the standards translates into what all parents want for their students, the ability to graduate from school prepared to succeed, and build a strong future for themselves and the country.”²⁶

– **Karin Brown**, President, Florida Parent Teacher Association
March 22, 2010

“I recognize that consistent standards are the most effective method to close the achievement gap plus numerous other educational benefits for our children.”²⁷

– **Bonnie Cannon**, Minnesota PTA President

“As both a parent and teacher, I have been supportive of common standards for years.”²⁸

– **Melissa Erickson**, Florida PTA Parent

“As a parent, I realize the great need for a more rigorous curriculum in my home state. I believe in the principle as I understand CCSSI and see this as an opportunity to effect positive change.”²⁹

– **Deloris Irving**, Mississippi PTA President

“I chose to get involved in CCSS because our children must be able to compete in a global economy... I joined because I wanted to be a voice at the table and make a difference in the state for our children. The most

²³ *Casper Star-Tribune*: http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/article_525c3d8e-40b9-11df-9236-001cc4c03286.html

²⁴ *The Huffington Post*: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hunghsi-wu/math-education_b_1901299.html

²⁵ *The SCORE Sheet*: <http://thescoresheet.org/2012/08/28/common-core-equals-common-ground-for-military-connected-children/>

²⁶ *Sun-Sentinel*: http://weblogs.sun-sentinel.com/educationblog/2010/03/guest_blogger_pta_mom.html

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Retrieved from National Parent Teachers Association, December 2011

²⁹ *Ibid.*

compelling thing I learned about CCSS was that it will raise the bar and prepare children for college or career. I believe clear and concise strategies would improve learning in our country.”³⁰

– **Judy Johnson-Evans**, Mississippi PTA Parent

“Equality for all children. The standards truly represent a way to get all children the same instruction and expectations. The standards are also easier for parents to grasp and, thus, help their children. The standards also ease the way for non-college bound students to move to the workplace.”³¹

– **Latha Krishnaiyer**, Florida PTA Parent

“I am involved in the CCSSI because I believe that we must educate our students to be college and career ready and to participate in this global world. I believe that the parents of our students can make a difference in helping their children in this endeavor by becoming educated on how they can work with their students at home to support the teachers.”³²

– **Sharon Whitworth**, Kentucky PTA Parent

“I chose to get involved with CCSSI because I believe this is an exciting initiative that will transform education in the US and will have a great impact on our children’s ability to achieve.”³³

– **Melisa Yeoman**, Ohio PTA Parent

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.