**Guide to Common Core State Standards**

*“Common Core State Standards are the academic content standards recently adopted by Oregon and most other states across the country. All Oregon students will be assessed on how they are meeting the standards on new tests – known as the Smarter Balanced assessment – starting in the 2014-15 school year.”*

Betsy Miller-Jones Executive Director, Oregon School Board Association

***What are Common Core State Standards?***

These academic standards are shared nationally among participating states, including Oregon, to ensure that all students are college- and career-ready by high school graduation. Adoption of the standards is designed to provide benefits such as:

* Allowing teachers to focus on high-quality instruction by encouraging them to align and share lessons, effective teaching strategies and assessments. Proficiency-based teaching and learning can also be supported by the rigorous real-life expectations contained in the Common Core State Standards.
* Developing skills for 21st century jobs, since the standards integrate literacy into multiple subjects. In addition to English and math, the standards integrate literacy into science, social studies and technical subjects – better preparing students for college and careers.

o Providing consistency nationally so that students who move from state to state will transition more easily and require less remediation.

***How did Common Core State Standards come to Oregon?***

Common Core State Standards stem from a 2009 partnership of the National Governors Association for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Forty-eight states, including Oregon, agreed to help develop national standards for college and career readiness, and set a series of grade-level standards tied to that end goal. Development of the standards was a voluntary effort involving parents, teachers and school administrators – more than 10,000 public comments were weighed during the process. Oregon has been involved since inception: the state's Department of Education and Oregon educational professionals reviewed drafts and provided feedback throughout.

In October 2010, the state Board of Education adopted Common Core State Standards for: 1) English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and 2) Mathematics. That action made those standards the foundation of the K-12 Oregon Diploma.

The state Board of Education is the public body that establishes policy for elementary, secondary and community colleges (ORS 326.011). The state Board of Education is also responsible for establishing state standards for public kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools (ORS 326.051).

***What is a local school board’s responsibility*?**

Local school boards do not adopt the Common Core State Standards. A local board is responsible for the adoption of policies (required by the Division 22 standards) that ensure the district implements state-adopted academic standards. Local boards are held accountable through the annual signing of assurance to the Division 22 standards submitted to the Oregon Department of Education.

***What is the ODE doing*?**

In consideration of students that are considered "transition age", special educators are being supported to develop IEPs that support post-secondary goals and outcomes. The connection to the standards is found within the skills in math, English language arts, science, and English language acquisition that will create access points towards self-determination. This work will continue as changes occur in special education processes, assessment, and the state IEP form.

Currently, **ODE has implemented guidance for developing “Standards-based IEPs”. Information about this process can be found on the ODE webpages that relate to Common Core State Standards and Students with Disabilities. This information can be found at** [**http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4157**](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4157)**.**

**Resources**

Additional information on Common Core and student achievement can be found on OSBA's website at [*http://bit.ly/1aOw9mq.*](http://bit.ly/1aOw9mq)

The Alliance for Excellent Education has created a comprehensive background document called Common Core State Standards 101, which can be found at [*http://bit.ly/17L45tW.*](http://bit.ly/17L45tW)