



History of Common Core State Standards in Nevada

2004-09: Development of Standards. In 2004, state departments of education, including Nevada, began discussing the possibility of common standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics that states could voluntarily adopt. These conversations led to the development of committees to write the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2009. Throughout the development process, Nevada participated by providing feedback, attending and convening meetings and preparing for the eventual adoption of the standards. The federal government did not direct what should be included in the standards. In fact, federal law prohibits dictating a national curriculum.

October 2010: Nevada Adopts Standards. The Nevada State Board of Education adopted the CCSS in October 2010, and they became the Nevada Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. With this action, the Board of Education committed to ensuring that all students are ready for college and careers.

2010: Nevada Joins SBAC to Develop Next-Generation Assessments. In 2010, Nevada joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), a state-led consortium working to develop next-generation assessments that accurately measure student progress toward college- and career-readiness. Smarter Balanced is one of two multistate consortia awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education in 2010 to develop an assessment system aligned to the Common Core State Standards by the 2014-15 school year.

2011-12 School Year: Implementation of Standards Begins. School districts started using the new Nevada Academic Content Standards for ELA and Mathematics during the 2011-12 school year, and all of the state's public schools will fully implement the standards through grade 12 in the 2014-15 school year. Throughout the transition, districts continue to develop their own curricula, and classroom teachers decide how best to instruct to the new standards. There is no mandated curriculum or instructional methods that teachers must use, only a set of standards that will promote college and career ready students.

July 2013: Board of Regents Adopts Resolution. In July 2013, the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents adopted a resolution expressing support for and encouraging long-term commitment by the state of Nevada in the adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The Colleges, Schools, and Departments of Education within NSHE are actively preparing future teachers in Nevada to teach under the CCSS.

March-June 2014: SBAC Field Testing in Nevada. During spring 2014, 234 schools across Nevada will participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test, a practice run of the SBAC computer-based assessments for grades 3 through 11 in English and mathematics. The Smarter Balanced Assessment System is expected to replace existing state assessments in third through eighth grades in English language arts and mathematics in all Nevada schools during the 2014-15 school year.

March 2014: NASB Executive Committee Adopts Resolution. The Executive Committee of the Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) approved a resolution expressing support for the Common Core State Standards. NASB consists of representatives from all seventeen Nevada school districts.

“The move to new standards is critical to Nevada’s progress. In Nevada, almost one-third of our high school graduates must take remedial classes to prepare for college-level coursework. Nevada’s new standards, which promote critical thinking, reasoning and application of knowledge, are expected to drastically reduce the need for remedial classes. The standards will also strengthen the state’s workforce and economy as more students graduate from high school with the knowledge, skill and ability needed to succeed in a new economy and more students are able to finish higher education with certificates or degrees.”

- Dale A.R. Erquiaga
Superintendent of Public Instruction