Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE – Update 3/10/10

GENERAL BACKGROUND

What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?
A state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for states to adopt a set common standards. Forty-eight states have agreed to adopt the Common Core Standards as their state standards.

What are the Common Core Standards?
The Common Core Standards include K-12 College- and Career-Ready Standards for **English/Language Arts** and **Mathematics** that define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The Common Core Standards:

- are aligned with college and work expectations.
- include rigorous content *and* application of knowledge through high-order skills.
- build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards.
- are internationally benchmarked.
- are evidence and/or research-based.

INDIANA'S CONTEXT

Why is this initiative important for Indiana's students?
Currently, every state has its own set of academic standards, meaning students in each state are potentially learning to different levels. Expectations for students will be consistent across all states and territories, preparing Indiana's students to compete with their peers in the next state. Additionally, the Common Core Standards are internationally benchmarked priming Indiana's students to compete globally.

Why is this initiative important for Indiana's educators?
Adopting the Common Core Standards will allow for more focused pre-service training and professional development. Educators will have the opportunity to tailor curriculum, improve teaching methods, and promote the sharing of best practices within a national context.

Has Indiana reviewed the Common Core Standards?
The Indiana Department of Education staff worked to review the Common Core Standards in relation to Indiana's Academic Standards. The IDOE submitted feedback to CCSSO for review.

INDIANA'S FUTURE

Will Indiana adopt the Common Core Standards?
Indiana will adopt the Common Core Standards in August 2010.

When will Indiana have the finalized Common Core Standards?
On March 10, the draft K-12 standards became available for public comment on the website www.corestandards.org. The public comment period closes on Friday, April 2. From that point, CCSSO will begin reviewing and where appropriate, addressing the comments and feedback. As soon as the final draft is released, the IDOE will provide access to the Common Core Standards.

Will Indiana provide information on how Indiana's Academic Standards align to the Common Core Standards?
As part of this initiative, Achieve, Inc. is developing a tool to help states align their current state standards with the Common Core Standards. A team of educators and IDOE staff will conduct an alignment of Indiana's Academic Standards and the Common Core Standards. This information will be shared as soon as it is completed. The expected completion date is June 2010.

What is Indiana's plan for transitioning to the Common Core Standards?
The Education Roundtable will review the Common Core Standards in July, and they will be adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education in August of 2010. A team of Indiana educators will be selected to serve as the Professional Cabinet to provide input and feedback on the development of a scope and sequence and state curriculum maps which will be developed for English/Language Arts and Mathematics for each grade.

Will schools that already have a curriculum mapping process have to change what they do?
The curriculum map developed by IDOE will provide the common scope and sequence which will allow formative assessments to be aligned to the curriculum. It will also provide clarity in interpreting the standards by providing the discrete content and skills that students will need to learn to demonstrate the standards. The goal is for all curriculum mapping software companies to be able to house the state's curriculum maps as a starting point for teachers to use in planning their instruction. The curriculum mapping process used by a school would remain the same in terms of the software they use, the way teachers create their own diary maps of the enacted curriculum, and how those maps are used to analyze the relationship between student achievement and the enacted curriculum.

What is the state's timeline for implementing the Common Core Standards and how will that impact ISTEP+ and End-of-Course Assessments?
We anticipate:
For the 2010-2011 school year, the Indiana Academic Standards for Mathematics 2000 should be taught, and 2000 standards will be assessed. The Indiana Academic Standards for Mathematics 2009 should be introduced and practiced. Selected schools will participate in pilot items based upon the 2009 math standards. The 2006 English/Language Arts standards should be taught and will be tested.

For the 2011-2012 school year, Indiana Academic Standards for Mathematics 2009 should be **fully implemented**, and **2009 standards will be assessed.** The Common Core (new) Math Standards should be introduced and practiced (Curriculum Maps for these standards will be available and used by schools beginning in August 2011). Selected schools will participate in pilot items based upon the Common Core Math Standards. 2006 English/Language Arts standards should be taught and will be tested. The Common English/Language Arts Standards should be introduced and practiced (Curriculum Maps for these standards will be available and used by schools beginning in August 2011). Selected schools will participate in pilot items based upon the Common Core English/Language Arts Standards.

For the 2012-2013 school year, Common Core Standards for Mathematics and Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, and Language should be **fully implemented**; assessment of the Common Core could begin as early as 2012-13 but will depend upon final US DOE regulations and requirements.