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Indiana Adopts Common Core Standards

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English/Language Arts, Literacy, and Mathematics, following approval today from Indiana's Education Roundtable and State Board of Education. Indiana joins a consortium of states that have adopted the standards so far. The CCSS aim to create consistent national benchmarks for all students, regardless of their home state.

"We want to ensure our students are held to the highest academic standard, and we believe the CCSS will position Indiana children well — nationally and internationally," Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett said. "While these common standards will serve as guidelines for success, it will be up to our outstanding educators to decide how best to deliver instruction to make sure our students receive an academically rigorous and globally competitive education."

The CCSS were developed by two associations: the National Governors Association and the Chief Council of State School Officers in collaboration with representatives from participating states and a wide range of educators, content experts, researchers, national organizations and community groups. Forty-eight states and two territories have indicated they plan to adopt the standards, resulting in a vast majority of U.S. students being taught the same critical skills.

The Common Core State Standards offer many other benefits:

- CCSS will help prepare all students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and careers.
- They will help students who move between states by ensuring their curriculum remains intact. States can align textbooks, digital media, and curricula to these internationally benchmarked standards.
- They will allow for more focused pre-service education and professional development.
- The CCSS will create potential economies of scale around areas such as curriculum, instructional resources, and assessment. These areas will be strengthened and aligned with the CCSS.
- Common standards provide the opportunity to compare and evaluate policies that affect student achievement across states and districts.
- They create the opportunity for America to compete for high-wage, high-skill jobs in a knowledge-based economy.

"In Indiana, our goals for students are on target with those in the common core," Bennett said. "Adopting the CCSS gives Indiana clearer and higher standards than ever before. These improved standards are not only aligned with college and workforce expectations, but they also include rigorous content and knowledge application pieces."

The current transition plan for the CCSS allows teachers to continue using the Indiana academic standards during the 2010-2011 academic year. Schools will begin teaching the CCSS in the 2011-2012 academic year, resulting in a fully implemented Common Core State Standards program by 2014-2015. School accountability will use the current standards until that time.

IDOE staff is working on plans to assist educators as they implement these new standards. For more information on the CCSS, go to www.corestandards.org or www.doe.in.gov/standards.