

# Preparing Our Kids for the Future

## Kansas College and Career Ready Standards Fact Sheet

### **Q: What are the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards?**

**A:** The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards show what students in K-12 should know and be able to do in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The standards will help all students across the State learn the same skill. The standards are designed to help all young people get prepared for college and careers. The standards were benchmarked with learning standards from other top-performing countries to ensure students in the United States are prepared to live and work in a global economy.

### **Q: Are the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards the same as Common Core?**

**A:** In Kansas, the Common Core State Standards, known here as Kansas College and Career Ready Standards (KCCRS) are a critical part of our state's plan to support teachers as they prepare all students for success in college and career.

### **Q: How were the standards developed?**

**A:** Forty-six states across the country collaborated with teachers, researchers, and leading experts to design and develop the Common Core State Standards under the guidance of the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Each state independently made the decision to adopt the Common Core State Standards, beginning in 2010. The federal government was NOT involved in the development of the standards. Local teachers, principals, and superintendents lead the implementation of the Common Core

### **Q: Are these national standards?**

**A:** The federal government is NOT involved in the development of the standards. This has been a state-led and driven initiative from the beginning. States will voluntarily adopt the standards based on the timelines and context in their state.

### **Q: What will Standards mean for students across the country?**

**A:** The standards set clear and consistent expectations for students learning across the country. In the past, every State had its own set of different academic standards. This meant that U.S. students were learning different skills and concepts at different rates. The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards give all Kansas students an equal opportunity to learn the same standards.



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Department of Teaching & Learning  
1.785.717.4000  
<http://www.USD475.org>

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### **Q: What does this mean for Geary County USD 475 students?**

**A:** Following the October 2010 adoption of the KCCRS, USD 475 has been working to phase in the standards. The 2013-14 school years marks the full implementation of the KCCRS from K-12 with all grade levels continuously working together to ensure the standards are being used across grade levels and content areas.

For our military-connected students, CCSS are a dramatic shift from an education experience that has traditionally been a patchwork of various standards and expectations as they move from state to state to one that will be as close to academically seamless as possible. Students will experience a better transition to new schools because schools across the country will be using the same set of academic standards with the end goal being well prepared for college or careers as they exit high school.

### **Q: Do the standards tell teachers how to teach?**

**A:** No. They are a tool to help teachers prepare the best classroom lessons and activities. The standards also help students and parents by showing them what it takes to be successful in each grade level. They are an important roadmap for teachers, students, and parents.

### **Q: Will this mean more tests?**

**A:** No. The Standards do not mean more tests, but there will be different, and better, tests. The new tests will reflect the changes in the standards. The tests may seem more difficult at first and there is the possibility that student test scores could drop in the first or second year of the new tests. However, the tests are an important tool for improving student achievement. The new tests will help schools identify those students who might need extra support to achieve the Standards.

### **Sources:**

- Common Core State Standards Initiative: <http://www.corestandards.org>
- National PTA: <http://pta.org>
- Common Core video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s0rRk9sER0>
- KSDE College and Career Ready web page: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4754>



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