

“The Standards are designed to build upon the most advanced current thinking about preparing all students for success in college and their careers.”

— Common Core State Standards Initiative

Reach Higher

Delivering on Common Core State Standards



The Common Core State Standards have been designed to provide a rigorous learning platform that prepares our nation's students to perform in the classroom, to succeed in college, and to prosper in their careers and in life.

The College Board has been a consistent advocate and committed collaborator in the development of Common Core State Standards. In fact, our research informed the drafting of the standards, and our experts helped guide the standards development process.

We are committed to ensuring that today's students have the educational foundation and critical skills needed to be productive citizens in today's complex society. Through an ongoing partnership with states, districts and schools, we can work together to achieve the rigorous requirements set forth by the Common Core Standards, and to help today's classroom experiences better meet our students' future needs.

A successful path for college readiness

For more than 100 years, the College Board has worked with states, districts and schools to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve at a high academic level. Our approach is based on a belief that all young people can be prepared to successfully complete college, if the development and measurement of skills and knowledge is started as early as possible and provided through rich, engaging educational experiences.

Leveraging rigorously researched, developed and proven tools, resources and programs, the College Board can help you implement the Common Core State Standards through:

- **Rigorous Assessments** that measure the knowledge and skills students need to be college ready
- **Challenging Curriculum and Instruction** that prepare students to successfully complete college-level work
- **State and District Reform** that enables schools to meet standards and ensure college readiness for all students

We know it's vital that states, districts and schools have a Common Core implementation partner that can help them get started today on the right path for tomorrow. A partner that can support educators in driving meaningful improvement and enable students to experience success as they plan for the future. The College Board has been, and will continue to be, devoted to creating opportunities for students to learn and achieve more.

Putting our proven portfolio to work

The College Board provides a comprehensive range of resources to help initiate and integrate your Common Core effort.

Each of the assessments, curricula, and diagnostic and support programs in our portfolio is backed by results, share the same goals and standards as Common Core — preparing students for college — and are shaped by the same rigorous methodologies that led to our central involvement in the initiative.

Programs engineered to enhance achievement

Our College Readiness Pathway — made up of the ReadStep™, PSAT/NMSQT®, and SAT® assessments — and SpringBoard® curricula, as well as our diagnostic and support programs and professional development, have all been built to develop and measure skills and knowledge. Beginning as early as sixth grade, the College Board can help educators guide students toward appropriate progress each year, through high school into college.

The College Board is particularly well suited to understand what students need to succeed in college and beyond because of its work on the AP® Program, which is developed in collaboration with leading professors to reflect the expectations of colleges throughout the country. Recognized as the nation's most accelerated and enriched high school learning program, AP has enabled millions of students to experience college-level courses and exams while still in high school and earn college credit for their effort.

Methodologies regarded as best practices

The College Board is trusted among the education community to hold itself to the same rigorous expectations that it provides for the nation's students, using only the most stringent methodologies in designing, developing and validating its programs.

Rigorous Assessments

The College Board College Readiness Pathway is a proven system of assessments and diagnostics that drives performance via precise measurement of the knowledge and skills taught in middle and high school. Including ReadStep, PSAT/NMSQT, and SAT, the Pathway has been rigorously developed to provide teachers and students with the highest-quality measurement and feedback, demonstrating strong alignment to the Common Core.

Challenging Curriculum and Instruction

College Board's research-based and teacher-trusted SpringBoard Mathematics and English Language Arts program prepares students to meet Common Core expectations by immersing them in the rigors that lead to success in college-level courses, including AP, honors or advanced classes. Featuring an intensive sixth- through 12th-grade curriculum, the SpringBoard classroom experience satisfies Common Core performance expectations.

State and District Reform

The College Board's two unique advisory services help states and districts create capacity to implement the Common Core Standards and establish a commitment to college readiness for all students. State-level standards and assessment alignment helps states determine the degree of alignment between current state standards and the Common Core. EXCEerator™ focuses on improving college readiness at the district level through a multiphase diagnostic and implementation process.

Rigorous Assessments: A measure of performance and success

The College Board College Readiness Pathway is composed of the ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT assessments. These assessments systematically and progressively measure the reading, writing and mathematical knowledge and skills — critical for success in college and beyond — that students are learning every day in middle and high school classrooms.

ReadiStep™ Intervening Early

A benchmark assessment for middle school, providing early feedback to help students identify the skills they need to be college ready.

PSAT/NMSQT® Identifying Opportunity

A diagnostic assessment for 10th–11th grades, identifying probable success in AP and areas of opportunity for improved college readiness.

SAT® Providing College Access

A college admission assessment for 11th–12th grades, providing insight into the ultimate measure of a student's level of college readiness and success upon graduation from high school.

Actionable Data to Inform Learning and Instruction

All three assessments in the College Readiness Pathway are rigorously developed to yield the highest-quality measurement and feedback. The tools provided by the three assessments help students improve their skills and enable teachers to make curricular changes that enhance learning and minimize remediation in college.

Skills Insight™. This online tool provides information about students' skills — those they need to develop — plus advice on how to improve their performance. Providing a clear framework for educators to integrate essential instruction into individual classrooms, Skills Insight™ can also be integrated in the classroom, helping to align overall curriculum with Common Core goals and to increase the college readiness at the school or district level.

College Readiness Benchmarks. The College Board College and Career Readiness Benchmark provides a reliable aggregate measure of college and career readiness, allowing states to improve academic programs that prepare groups of students for success in college. The Benchmark is the result of rigorous research that analyzed the scores and college performance of a diverse, nationally representative student sample. The research identified the score associated with a target level of college achievement. Educators can use the Benchmark to determine what proportion of their student body is college ready and how that proportion changes over time. This information helps to determine whether changes in curriculum and instruction are having a positive impact on student performance.

Alignment to Common Core

Recent alignment studies confirm that all of the knowledge and skills measured by RediStep, the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT strongly align to the Common Core State Standards. These assessments can serve as a valuable tool in helping states measure college readiness. To view the full alignment, visit www.collegeboard.org/commoncore.

Challenging Curriculum and Instruction:

A foundation for higher learning

A foundational component of the College Board's College Readiness System™, SpringBoard is a proven English Language Arts and Mathematics curriculum for grades 6–12. Based on the belief that every student deserves access to rigorous course work, SpringBoard prepares a greater diversity of students for success in AP, college and beyond. Additionally, the College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP) enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. This rigorous academic program includes the depth of curriculum found in the corresponding college course.

SpringBoard®: Providing challenging experiences

SpringBoard demonstrates that high expectations, like those now defined by Common Core — supported by rigorous, accessible instructional materials that prepare all students for college-level work — yield success. SpringBoard is based on extensive research with college faculty, middle and high school teachers as well as content experts from across the country. Backmapping from required AP skills and knowledge, SpringBoard aligns these attributes to ensure that ALL students are prepared to meet the challenges of higher education. SpringBoard was developed using proven strategies to enable students to “think deeply” and take responsibility for their learning.

Alignment to Common Core

With its already rigorous curriculum, SpringBoard is tightly aligned to Common Core State Standards. In addition to sharing Common Core’s focus on required achievements and outcomes, SpringBoard also addresses the learning process and strategies essential to students achieving those goals. To view the full alignment, visit www.collegeboard.org/commoncore.

AP: Connecting Students to College Success

The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) exposes academically prepared students to the most rigorous curriculum available to them. Each AP class provides the breadth of information, skills and assignments found in the corresponding college course.

Performing well on an AP Exam means more than just mastering the material in a particular subject; it is a pathway to success in college. Research consistently shows that students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to graduate on time than otherwise comparable non-AP peers.

Alignment studies indicate that the Common Core State Standards will successfully prepare students to engage in an AP course.

State and District Reform: Services for effective implementation

Through standards alignment and curriculum adjustment services, the College Board works with teams at all levels — state, district and school — to help achieve alignment to Common Core, deepen rigor and propel progress.

Our two distinctive support programs can be used separately or in conjunction, enabling state-level professionals to determine alignment of standards and assessments to Common Core and allowing district- and school-level educators focused on grades 6–12 to adjust curriculum to meet those standards.

State Alignment Service: Aiding transition

A tailored consulting service, the College Board's State Alignment Service provides guidance and assistance during the vital transition to the Common Core State Standards.

Using widely accepted and rigorous practices in standards and assessment design and alignment, the College Board's research and development experts work closely with states to determine the degree of alignment between current state standards and assessments and the Common Core Standards. Recommendations and implementation goals are then identified to enhance, strengthen or revise standards, assessment and curriculum frameworks to meet the standards and support college and career readiness.

EXCEerator™: Building curriculum

For 6th–12th grade educators, our district services team offers a curriculum planning process with tools that ensure the following: the provision to students of essential experiences for college readiness; the monitoring of key cognitive skills development and content knowledge in their students' work; and the alignment of formative student assessments to the Common Core.

Collaborating closely with district professionals, College Board experts first conduct a mapping process to align the district's curriculum to college readiness standards in Common Core subject areas, as well as social studies and science. Teams then work together to:

- Identify and develop essential college readiness experiences, embedding them into the curriculum for grades 6 to 12;
- Ensure that student work is assessed for evidence of progress toward college readiness by studying exemplars of student work and implementing a process to review and analyze student work from the district; and
- Develop and establish expectations for a series of formative assessments aligned to the essential experiences of college readiness and the Common Core.

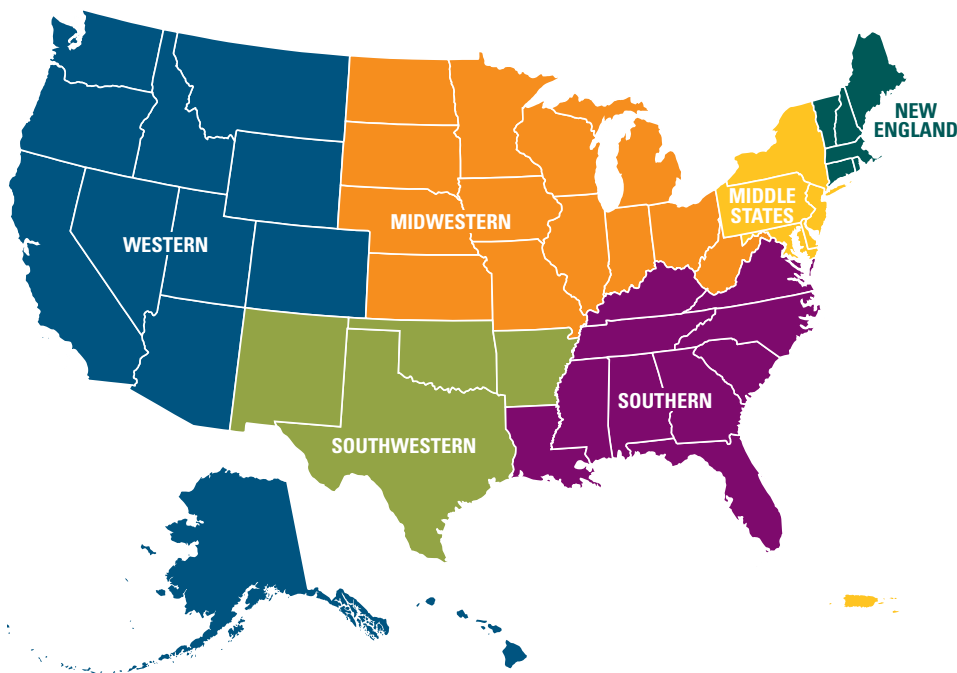
Once the newly aligned plan is in place, College Board teams can continue to support the implementation of the curriculum, ensuring that essential college readiness experiences are delivered, that student work demonstrates the appropriate levels of rigor, and that formative assessments are used and revised to support college readiness standards.

A Committed Partner for Implementing the Common Core State Standards



The College Board is committed to supporting states, districts and schools in a collaborative effort to connect more students to college success and opportunity. We are ready to partner with you to support your implementation of the Common Core State Standards, as well as your commitment to ensuring that all students are college ready.

Learn more at www.collegeboard.org/commoncore.



About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT[®] and the Advanced Placement Program[®]. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

For further information, visit www.collegeboard.org.

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