

Standardizing Excellence:

The Path Toward a Common Set of State Academic Standards

**CERPP Conference
January 13-15, 2010
Los Angeles, CA**

Common Core State Standards

WHY? What research tells us

HOW? How research has impacted the
Common Core

FUTURE? How research will continue to
impact the Common Core

WHY? What Research Tells Us

WHY? Losing the Leading Edge

- US was leader in high school graduation rates
– 40 years ago
- **Now it ranks 18th out of 24 industrialized countries**
- US was tied for first in the proportion of young adults with a college degree in 1995
- **Now it ranks 14th and is below the average of industrialized countries**

WHY? Losing the Leading Edge

PISA – as of 2006

US Performance Relative to 30 Industrialized Countries

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Mathematics	25
Science	21
Reading	15
Problem Solving	24

WHY? Losing the Leading Edge

- **Only 7 in 10 ACT-tested 2009 high school graduates took a core curriculum.**
- **Only 23% of ACT-tested 2009 high school graduates were college/career ready in all four subjects.**
- **Of those students who took a core curriculum, only 28% were college/career ready in all four subjects.**

HOW? How Research Has Impacted The Common Core

Impact of Research

- **Common Core Standards are Evidence and/or Research-based**
- **Many Sources of Evidence Used: College readiness data, internationally benchmarked data, high-performing state standards, college success research, workplace data, academic research in learning progressions...**
- **Evidentiary Sources Accompany the College and Career Readiness Common Core Standards**

Impact of Research

Why College and Career Readiness for All?

- 71% of high school and 78% of college instructors affirm that college and career readiness require a comparable level of knowledge and skills. **BUT...**
- Nearly HALF of high school teachers report secondary teachers reduce academic expectations “a great deal” or “completely” for students whom they perceive not to be college bound.
- **Common Core Criterion: *College and Career Readiness for ALL Students***

Impact of Research

- What postsecondary instructors expect entering college students to know is **far more targeted and specific** than what high school teachers view as important.
- Common Core Criterion: *Fewer, clearer, higher standards*

Impact of Research

- Research shows that the level of readiness needed to enter workforce training programs and to enter college are **comparable**.
- Common Core Criterion: *Aligned with College and Work Expectations*

Ready for College, Ready for Work: Same or Different? ACT, 2006

Achieve, 2002

Impact of Research

- Performance on **complex** texts is the clearest differentiator in reading between students who are more likely to be ready for college and those who are less likely to be ready.
- Impact on Common Core Reading Standards

Academic Research in Reading
Comprehension

Reading Between the Lines, ACT 2006.

Impact of Research

- Important to identify the knowledge and skills necessary for students to have if they are to have a high likelihood of succeeding in college-entry, credit-bearing courses
- **Common Core Criterion: *Rigorous Content and Application of Knowledge through Higher-Order Skills***

Adding it Up

Focal Points

National Math Panel

ACT National Curriculum Survey 2009

Achieve State Standards Comparisons

Impact of Research

Example of Common Core Standards that were included and removed because of research evidence data.....

EQUATIONS: Solve Systems of Equations INCLUDED

Student performance data alone indicated that this skill is not essential for success in college algebra



PS Math instructors ranked this skill in the top half of most important skills in both 2006 and 2009

58% of college algebra instructors gave importance rating of 3 or 4 (out of 4)

ADVANCED FUNCTIONS: Trig Functions

EXCLUDED

In some
states'
standards

In some other
countries'
standards

Performance data
indicate NOT essential
for student success in
college algebra

PS math
instructors
assigned low
importance
ratings in 2006
and 2009

Ranked next to last in
importance by
college algebra
instructors in 2009



FUTURE? How Research Will Continue to Impact the Common Core

Future Impact of Research

- **Common Core (First Edition) will soon be released**
- **Evolving process**
- **Future editions will be impacted by a continuing research agenda examining relationship of college/career readiness to success**
- **Academic research foundation including empirical bases for learning progressions in reading, writing and math**

Future Impact of Research: Readiness and Success

Students who are college-ready are more likely to:

- **Enroll in college**
- **Earn college course grades of A's or B's**
- **Earn college GPAs of 3.0 or higher**
- **Return for the second year at the same college regardless of gender, race and income**
- **Graduate within 4-6 years**

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