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

<table>
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<th>Subject</th>
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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

ACT National Curriculum Survey 2009
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

Performance data indicate NOT essential for student success in college algebra

In some states’ standards

In some other countries’ standards

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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