

### **Common Core State Standards**

These standards will be research and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked, aligned with college and work expectations and include rigorous content and application of content through high-order skills. They will define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The NGA Center and CCSSO are coordinating the process to develop these standards and have recently created an expert validation committee to provide an independent review of the common core state standards, as well as the grade-by-grade standards. Forty-eight states (not SC and TX) and three territories have signed onto this initiative and may voluntarily choose to align their standards to the common core with the common core representing at least 85% of their standards in these areas. Montana has not yet decided what role these standards will play in the state.

Go to <http://www.corestandards.org/Standards/index.htm> to find current information about the NGA Center and CCSSO first official draft of the college- and career-readiness standards in the foundational skills of English Language Arts and Math.

Go to [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) to gather information as the process continues.

Key dates in the common core state standards initiative:

- November 2009 – college- and career-readiness draft standards released in 9/09 validated.
- Winter 2009/2010 – K-12 common core state standards in English-language arts and mathematics completed and publicly released.
- Early 2010, states submit timeline and process for adoption of common core state standards in English-language arts and mathematics.

Once the English language arts and math standards are developed, states plan to develop a common core of standards in science and potentially additional subject areas.

**GED 20/20** is a product of the changing national conversation on what it means to be a high school graduate and what is needed for a graduate to be college- and or career-ready. The GED test must be closely aligned with the developing new standards, such as the common core documents created in a state-led process convened by the National Governors Association (NGA Center) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). There will be a direct transition from the 2002 test series to GED 20/20 (a more comprehensive assessment), with the first elements of this program beginning in 2010.

A pilot study (in 3-4 states) is being prepared for launch in 2010 that will study the equivalency of computer-and paper-based testing (CBT) and assist in understanding a variety of issues related to CBT delivery. Alignment studies will be conducted to identify the gaps between the content used for test development to date and the more rigorous college- and career-ready content expectations in the Common Core. Late 2010, GEDTS will begin field testing new types of items aligned with the emerging national standards.

GED Testing Service has posted a FAQ document they plan to continue to update at [http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/National\\_Needs\\_Announcement\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/National_Needs_Announcement_FAQs.pdf)

### **Planned Content for GED 2012 (Rose can share more information on this)**

Go to [http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/etp/pros/2012\\_admin\\_faqs.htm](http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/etp/pros/2012_admin_faqs.htm) for links to all the documents, noting the planned changes in content from GED Test 2002. Much of this content will be applicable to the new college- and career-ready GED test.