

MYTHS VS. FACTS

SINCE 1996, NEVADA HAS BEEN A STANDARDS-BASED EDUCATION SYSTEM. WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS IN OCTOBER 2010, THEY BECAME THE NEVADA ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS. WITH THIS ACTION, THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT ALL STUDENTS ARE READY FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS.

Myth: *The federal government developed these standards.*

Fact: The federal government played no role in the development of the standards and does not govern the Common Core State Standards initiative. The initiative was and will remain a state-led effort.

Myth: *Common Core Standards are a national mandate dictating a national curriculum.*

Fact: Common Core State Standards are not a national mandate or a national curriculum. When the Nevada State Board of Education voluntarily adopted the Common Core State Standards, they became Nevada's Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Nevada is not receiving federal funding for adopting and implementing the Common Core Standards.

The standards define what students need to know; they do not dictate how teachers should teach or how students should learn. In Nevada, that decision is left to each school district. Common Core does not dictate what lesson plans, programs, or textbooks teachers will use for curriculum.

Myth: *No teachers were involved in writing the Common Core State Standards.*

Fact: The standards drafting process relied on teachers and standards experts from across the country. Throughout the development process, Nevada teachers participated by providing feedback, attending and convening meetings and preparing for the eventual adoption of the standards.

Myth: *Common Core Standards are an intrusion of student privacy rights and will allow student data to be inappropriately tracked.*

Fact: As part of broader education reform efforts, Nevada has created data systems that allow educators and parents to measure the progress of student achievement and growth from year to year. Regardless of adoption of the Common Core, Nevada remains in

control of its students' private information. The federal government does not have access to the student-level information housed in Nevada's state data systems. Common Core is not a mechanism for federal data collection, nor does Nevada's adoption of Common Core and its related assessments require any data collection beyond the aggregate data authorized by No Child Left Behind.

States and districts have the responsibility under state and federal law to protect the privacy of our students under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This act expressly forbids the use of any personal student data without the consent of parents. The Nevada Department of Education will remain vigilant in working with local school districts to continue protecting student information.

Myth: *Adoption of the Common Core will dumb down education in Nevada.*

Fact: The new standards are considerably more rigorous than the previous standards Nevada had in place for mathematics and English language arts. The standards are designed to build upon the most advanced current thinking about preparing all students for success in college and their careers. The standards were informed by the best in the country, the highest international standards, and evidence and expertise about educational outcomes.



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