

National School Model Combined with Iowa Standards

Three years after the Legislature raised standards in schools to boost student achievement and ensure kids are prepared for jobs in today's global economy, the Iowa Board of Education gave unanimous approval at their July 29th meeting to combine Iowa's Core standards with a multi-state effort to develop a "Common Core" standard.

The Iowa Department of Education's review of the new national model of education standards shows they are aligned with 88% of Iowa's standards for math skills and concepts addressed in the Iowa Core. In literacy or English language arts, 84% of the skills and concepts addressed in the Iowa Core are also covered in the Common Core.

The Common Core State Standards is a voluntary, state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The purpose of this effort is to develop standards that each state could adopt voluntarily to provide a common set of standards across states.

The Common Core State Standards were developed to be aligned with college and work expectations, to include rigorous content and skills, and to be internationally benchmarked. The Common Core State Standards initiative encompasses standards for English, language arts, and mathematics.

The Iowa Core standards effort provides a common set of skills and concepts in literacy, math, science, social studies, and 21st century learning skills (civic literacy, financial literacy, technology literacy, health literacy, and employability skills) that all Iowa students must know by the time they graduate from high school. The Iowa Core standards are to be implemented in high schools by 2012-2013 and in kindergarten through eighth grade by 2014-2015.