



# Utah State Office of Education

Department of Teaching and Learning

## Statements of Support for the Utah Core Standards

“Will this be another forgettable standards document like the overwhelming majority of the others? Perhaps. But unlike the others, it will be a travesty if this one is forgotten. The main difference between these standards and most of the others is that the CCSMS are mathematically very sound overall. They could serve—at long last—as the foundation for creating proper school mathematics textbooks and dramatically better teacher preparation.” —Dr. Hung-His Wu, Berkeley

“The Standards provide a focused and coherent picture of what students are expected to learn that is relevant to the real world and prepares students for success. The implementation of College and Career Readiness Standards based on the Common Core will support student readiness for participation in higher education mathematics.” —Dr. Hugo Rossi, University of Utah

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The Utah Core Standards for Mathematics Are Supported by National and Local Business Leaders, Mathematicians, Associations and Education Leaders.

### Utah Support

Governor’s Education Excellence Commission

Utah Board of Regents

Utah Board of Regents Math Majors Committee

Utah Parent Teacher Association

Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce Prosperity 20/20

Utah Technology Council

United Way

Utah School Superintendents Association

Utah School Boards Association

Some have heard that the new core does not have the support of mathematicians and is not research-based. This is not the case.

Dr. William G. McCallum, The University of Arizona  
<http://math.arizona.edu/~wmc/>

Dr. Bill Schmidt, Michigan State University  
<http://news.msu.edu/story/7929/http://news.msu.edu/story/7929/>

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics, the Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics, and the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) [http://www.corestandards.org/assets/k12\\_statements/NCTM-NCSM-ASSM-AMTE-joint-statement.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/k12_statements/NCTM-NCSM-ASSM-AMTE-joint-statement.pdf)

American Statistical Association  
<http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CommonCoreStateStandardsforStatisticsProbability.pdf>

Fordham Foundation: Grade A-  
“The Common Core provides admirable focus and explicitly requires standard methods and procedures, enhancements that would benefit Utah’s standards.”  
[http://www.edexcellencemedia.net/publications/2010/201007\\_state\\_education\\_standards\\_common\\_standards/CommonCore\\_Math.pdf](http://www.edexcellencemedia.net/publications/2010/201007_state_education_standards_common_standards/CommonCore_Math.pdf)

# National Businesses Support the Common Core Standards

“As companies and business organizations, we believe that it is imperative that ALL American students have access to an education that will prepare them for the opportunities and challenges they will face after high school. In a competitive world economy where education and/or training after high school is increasingly the norm for access to good jobs, to prepare students for anything less is, by definition, to deny opportunity.

“We believe that the Common Core State Standards Initiative, led by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers, has produced K-12 standards in the foundational subjects of math and English that meet the business community’s expectations: they are college- and career-ready, grounded in evidence and internationally-benchmarked. The Common Core State Standards are an important opportunity to set consistent, focused, rigorous expectations for all students; a necessary foundation for making the changes needed to improve student achievement and ensure the United States’ educational and economic preeminence.”

## Signed by.....

### National Support for the Core Standards

National Governors Association (NGA)

Council of Chief State School Officers

National PTA

Former Gov. Jeb Bush

Gov. Mitch Daniels (IN)

Condoleezza Rice

Governor Chris Christy (NJ)

Association of American Colleges and Universities

United States Chamber of Commerce

Accenture

ACT, Inc.

AdvanceED

Aetna

Association of American Publishers

BAE System

Battelle

Boeing Co.

Dell Inc.

Eastman Chemical

Eastman Kodak

Evans Newton Inc.

GlaxoSmithKline

Harper Industries, Inc.

IBM Corporation

ING

Intel

MetaMetrics

Microsoft

National Association of Manufacturers

Rockwell Automation

Qualprint

SAS Institute, Inc.

Software & Information Industry Association

State Farm Insurance



## How Will the Core Help Utah Students Stay Globally Competitive?

The Utah Core Standards are much more rigorous and become more complex than previous standards, beginning in kindergarten. Many topics are introduced earlier, with the expectation of greater comprehension, and are thus challenging for all students.

## Why Are the Core Standards Important to America?

“The Common Core State Standards are a building block in our state’s education system meant to ensure that teachers and districts can innovate within a framework of high expectations and accountability. They are based on the fundamental belief that every child in every classroom deserves an education that will properly equip them with the skills they need for college and a career. Our aggressive implementation of these standards in partnership with districts will ensure that our children have an education that will serve them well in the next stages of their lives.”

–Chris Christie, Governor of New Jersey

“Since the release of ‘A Nation at Risk’ in 1983, it has been increasingly clear that despite incremental reforms and progress in some states and school districts, academic expectations for American students have not been high enough. K-12 education in the United States leaves far too many students unprepared for postsecondary education and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace. There is no reason why students in the United States should not achieve at the same levels as their international peers in high-performing countries.”

–John J. Castellani, President and CEO, Business Roundtable (BRT)

*“As a former CEO of a Fortune 500 company, I know that common education standards are essential for producing the educated work force America needs to remain globally competitive. Good standards alone are not enough, but without them decisions about such things as curricula, instructional materials and tests are haphazard. It is no wonder that educational quality varies so widely among states.”*

–Craig Barrett, former CEO, Intel Corp.

*“Like the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children that provides common guidelines for states to follow in handling issues that impact children of military families as they transition between schools, the rigor of the proposed academic Common Core Standards will be a benefit to military dependent students everywhere.”<sup>1</sup>*

–Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley,  
Commanding General,

United States Army Accessions Command

*“The Common Core State Standards are an example of states recognizing a problem, then working together, sharing what works and what doesn’t.”*

–Jeb Bush, former Governor of Florida



# How Can We Help Students Become Career and College Ready in Math?

Developing key cognitive knowledge and strategies is an important component in developing career and college readiness. The strategies that are developed in mathematics classes, both in mathematical processes and in dispositions, are important elements in preparing for post-secondary careers and study. The Standards for Mathematical Practice support students in becoming persevering problem solvers who can reason and communicate effectively. The content standards give students mathematical tools with which to solve those problems and understand the world around them. Parents, businesses, and colleges are all key partners with teachers in helping students prepare for life.

The fastest growing career fields are based in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and they all require mathematics.

Students can become college and career ready by:

- Practicing mathematics skills until they can fluently compute and solve basic problems.
- Asking questions when mathematics doesn't make sense, and sticking with it until it does.
- Trying, even when it seems difficult.
- Looking for ways to apply mathematics in everyday life.
- Taking mathematics classes every year, even if it isn't required.
- Learning to use tools, such as calculators and computers, at appropriate times and in appropriate ways.

Parents can help by:

- Helping students see the value of mathematics in their world.
- Providing time for practicing mathematics skills and positive dispositions that support inquiry and perseverance.

Businesses can help by:

- Structuring the work day to allow employees to volunteer at school.
- Providing mentors and supports for students engaged in studying mathematics.

Colleges can help by:

- Ensuring pre-service teachers have access to and are involved in the content and pedagogy of the core standards.
- Creating classes that support veteran teachers in mathematics instruction.

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## Department of Teaching and Learning

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