

Dear Stakeholders,

Last year, Pennsylvania joined 47 other states, two territories and the District of Columbia in the Common Core State Standards Initiative—the aim of which is to arrive at a set of common academic standards in reading and math that are "research- and evidence-based, aligned with college and work expectations, include rigorous content and skills, and be internationally benchmarked."

Tomorrow morning, the two organizations facilitating this initiative—the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)—will unveil a draft of grade-level standards in reading and math for public comment. The grade-level standards are intended to help students reach College and Career Readiness targets (published by CCSSO and NGA last fall) that address "the knowledge and skills students should have to be ready to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs." Copies of both sets of standards and supporting documents are located at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

As the entity responsible for adopting academic standards, the State Board is committed to a thorough and thoughtful examination of the Common Core, including significant opportunities for public comment and stakeholder input. The attached document is an initial description of the Board's commitment to that process, and we'll continue to post resources and updates on the Board's website under "Academic Standards." For now, we want to make one important clarification: the public comment period established by the CCSSO and the NGA (which ends April 2nd) is independent from and precedes the state-level public comment period that will occur alongside the Board's consideration of Common Core.

As always, please contact the Board office with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

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