



What So Proudly We Hail **Common Core State Standards FAQ**

What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

The [Common Core State Standards](#) (CCSS) Initiative is a state-led effort that established a single set of clearly defined educational standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English language arts and mathematics. The standards, which states can voluntarily elect to adopt, are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are well equipped and prepared to enter college and the workforce. The CCSS Initiative is intended to provide consistent, high-level standards across states and enable collaboration between the states on a range of educational tools and policies, including teaching resources, assessments, and professional teacher development.

Who was involved in the development of the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

The nation's governors (the National Governors Association) and the Council of Chief State School Officers led the development of the Common Core State Standards and continue to lead the initiative. Teachers, parents, school administrators, and experts from across the country together with state leaders provided substantive input into the development of the standards.

How many states have adopted the Common Core State Standards?

Since 2010, states have been adopting and implementing the Common Core State Standards. To date, 45 states, the District of Columbia, and four US territories have adopted the CCSS. Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, and Virginia have not yet adopted the CCSS.

What are the CCSS English Language Arts standards?

The Common Core State Standards Initiative creates a staircase of increasing text complexity so that students can develop their skills and apply them to more and more complex texts as they progress through each new grade level. In particular, the standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects aim to optimize literacy skills by engaging students in close, attentive reading of complex texts— both literature and nonfiction—thus promoting proficiency in text-based reasoning and thinking that will be valuable across the curriculum.

How does the What So Proudly We Hail e-curriculum support the implementation of the CCSS?

The [What So Proudly We Hail](#) curriculum features a carefully selected collection of American stories, speeches, and songs that meet the level of complexity, quality, and breadth of text that the CCSS requires. Because CCSS calls for rigorous analysis of both literary and informational texts, *What So Proudly We Hail* includes content-rich nonfiction that touches not only on language arts, but also on content areas, including social studies and civics. By integrating literacy skills in content areas, *What So Proudly We Hail* produces stronger readers who possess a greater understanding of content knowledge.

Literary-based curricula made simple. History lessons made memorable.

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