

Press Release Re: the Common Core State Standards

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The Common Core State Standards Initiative, sponsored by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), details what K-12 students should know in English and math at the end of each grade.

Forty-five of the fifty states, including New York, adopted the Common Core Standards in 2010.

### **The problem:**

In absolute score, U.S. 15 year olds ranked 14th, 25th and 17th in reading, math and science, respectively, out of the 34 OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries, and we're regressing further by the day.

There is a growing gap between the skill levels demanded for emerging jobs and the number of people with the skills to fill those jobs. In fact 60 percent of the jobs in the U.S. economy will require some postsecondary education.

(source: the Common Core State Standards, National Governors' Association, retrieved from: [www.nga.org/.../sites/NGA/files/pdf/1209GEPAINstituteCommonCore.pdf](http://www.nga.org/.../sites/NGA/files/pdf/1209GEPAINstituteCommonCore.pdf))

Fellow citizens, 69% of NYS students statewide failed the grade level performance assessments for English Language Arts and Math. In the Buffalo School District, 89% failed.

However we arrived at the curricula models and test preparation patterns we are observing today, it is the local districts, their teachers and administrators, with the participation of the parents, who determine the curricula models and testing approaches we will use.

The Common Core does not create the curriculum or the tests, only the standards to be achieved. If local Districts, their teachers and administrators don't like the models offered by the State Board of Regents, nothing prevents them from designing their own models and in-year test instruments.

**We are continually missing the larger point.**

It is not that our children know less than earlier generations knew. In fact they know a little more.

The issue is that the children in our competitor countries know a lot more, and are learning it earlier and faster than our children are.

**We simply have not kept up, and if we don't, it is our children who will pay the price.**

The same people who sold our production companies and manufacturing jobs to people overseas are the same people who will be saying that future Americans are not good enough to do the jobs being created today and tomorrow.

The ability to develop curricula models that both engage the students and prepare them for the educational challenges they must meet is already in the control of the local Districts.

**Local Districts must do the work to design the curricula models and engage the parent community in their development. We must stop shifting the blame to the State Education Department when developing the solutions is entirely within our existing local control.**