



NJDOE News

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### **Commissioner Davy Invites Public Comment on "Common Core Standards"**

New Jerseyans interested in the education of children in the 21st century are invited to review and comment on the draft "Common Core Standards," released yesterday by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Administrators (CCSSO), Education Commissioner Lucille E. Davy announced today.

Education officials in all 50 states and the District of Columbia have signed on to a national initiative to develop common standards for Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics. The document currently available on line represents the first draft work of K-12 and higher education educators from throughout the country.

Commissioner Davy said that each state will have to adopt the standards individually and the members of the New Jersey State Board of Education and DOE staff were eager to solicit public input about the draft document. The draft standards are available for review on line, and comment can be provided to the New Jersey DOE either by e-mail or mail.

"There is no question that in today's globally competitive environment, our students need to be prepared to compete with students from other states as well as those from around the world," the Commissioner said in an e-mail to education stakeholders.

The text of the Commissioner's e-mail follows:

September 22, 2009

Dear Education Stakeholder:

The National Governor's Association and Council of Chief State School Officers have released the college and career ready expectations for high school graduates, which have been developed collaboratively over the past several months as part of the "Common Core Standards" initiative can be found at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

As you probably know, these documents, still in draft form, represent the work of educators from K-12 and higher education from throughout the country. It is our understanding that, as of this date, *all 50 states* and the District of Columbia have signed on to this national, grassroots initiative. There is no question that in today's globally competitive environment, our students need to be prepared to compete with students from other states as well as those from around the world. As a result, it is critical that the common core standards in Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics not only ensure college and career readiness but also be benchmarked with international expectations. The future economic viability of our state, and indeed our nation, depends upon how well we prepare *all* students for the future. Fewer, clearer and higher standards in these two critical content areas is a good first step towards achieving that goal.

The Department of Education staff and State Board of Education members are very interested in receiving your comments and input with respect to these draft documents. Once you have had an opportunity to review the college and career ready expectations, you may send your comments to [commoncore@doe.nj.gov](mailto:commoncore@doe.nj.gov) or via regular mail addressed to me at 100 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500. Your input will be shared with appropriate Department staff as well as the members of the State Board.

There are two other important points to remember: (1) the grade-by-grade standards will not be ready until late December or early January; and (2) the grade level standards will have to go through a review and adoption process by the State Board of Education before they would apply in New Jersey.

Thank you for your interest in this initiative and we look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,  
Lucille E. Davy