

Montana Common Core Fact Sheet

On November 4, 2011, Montana adopted the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts, Literacy, and Mathematics. These standards were developed through a state-led initiative sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governor's Association (NGA). The process involved teachers, principals, parents, and other experts using the best education practices of the United States and other countries.

Montana educators joined together to examine the Common Core Standards. They determined that the standards emphasize what students should know and be able to accomplish at every grade level and prepare students to be college and career ready upon graduation from high school. In addition, Montana's Common Core Standards reflect the state's values and priorities and include Indian Education for All content.

GETTING Every Montana Student College and Career READY

Why Montana Common Core Standards are good for students:

- Students will clearly understand what is expected of them as they progress through school.
- Students will be prepared with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and careers.
- Students moving from different communities or states will have a smoother transition because the learning goals remain consistent.

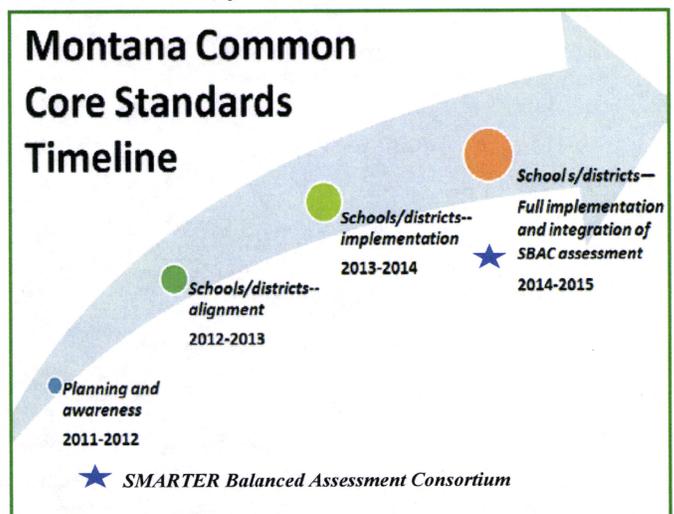
How educators will use the Montana Common Core Standards:

- Educators will focus on greater depths of understanding in each unit of study.
- Educators will have clear goals for student learning and achievement in Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literacy in each grade.
- Educators will have access to a computer adaptive assessment system.

What parents can expect:

- Parents will understand what students need to know at each step in their education.
- Parents will have more focused and clearer communication with teachers about their student's academic progress.
- Parents will be assured that Montana students have access to the same high-quality education other students receive throughout the United States.

Montana Common Core Standards Timeline



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

November 15, 2011

Measuring Student Achievement

To help achieve the goal that all students leave high school ready for college and careers, the Office of Public Instruction joined the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), a 31-state organization charged with developing an assessment system for the Montana Common Core Standards in English Language Arts, Literacy and Mathematics.

The SBAC system will:

- Align with the Montana Common Core Standards;
- Focus on supporting teachers' instructional practice and implementation of new standards;
- Provide a comprehensive reporting system on classroom practices and student progress for teachers, administrators, students and parents;
- Ensure every student is able to show what they know and can do to meet new standards; and
- Offer classroom formative assessment processes and tools, as well as computer adaptive interim and summative assessments.

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Computer Adaptive Assessments have the ability to adjust to student responses, provide for student needs for accommodations such as large print, and provide accurate information for teachers, parents and students.

 **Formative Assessment Processes** take place in the classroom to determine a student's learning needs, check for understanding and/or to provide evidence of progress toward learning goals.

 **Interim Assessments** take place after a particular segment of learning such as a chapter or unit of study.

 **Summative Assessments** are required, occur near the end of the school year, and the results are collected by the Office of Public Instruction to provide a comprehensive set of data on student achievement at the school, district and state levels.

Transition from MontCAS to SBAC Assessment

2011-12 through 2013-14 the MontCAS will:

- ✓ Use the current standards and reporting system
- ✓ Progressively align content with the Montana Common Core Standards
- ✓ Implement test questions to align with the Montana Common Core Standards
- ✓ Provide released field test items aligned to Montana Common Core Standards

Web Links:

Montana Common Core Standards and Assessment <http://opi.mt.gov/MontanaCommonCoreStandards>

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/>

Parent Teacher Association parent guides <http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.