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June 2, 2010

News Release

Colorado Considers How National Common Core Enriches Colorado Academic Standards

The national Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English Language Arts were released in their final form today by the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI), a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones said Colorado would ensure there is a good fit between Colorado's newly minted 11 content standards and the national common core initiative before formal consideration of a minor or major merge of concepts and language.

"Like Colorado's new academic standards, the national Common Core, developed by states, hold high expectations which are key to students' educational success," said Commissioner Jones. "We will examine how to best enrich our work with this national effort and we will take a cautious, careful path in that examination process."

Jo O'Brien, Assistant Commissioner for Standards and Assessment for the Colorado Department of Education, said the state will engage a third-party reviewer to immediately begin a line-by-line technical analysis comparing the new national math and English Language Arts standards with those adopted by the Colorado State Board of Education in December 2009. O'Brien said the third-party reviewer would also develop a proposal for ways to potentially enrich Colorado Academic Standards with content from the

Common Core State Standards.

Members of the Colorado Academic Standards subcommittees will provide feedback on the analysis for the third-party reviewer and a survey will be made available to gauge the interest of the public in this important initiative. O'Brien said the survey would be available for about two weeks beginning in mid-July.

"Engaging in this review process will provide the State Board of Education the information they need to determine if Colorado will support adaptations that enhance the Colorado Academic Standards, and thereby adopt the Common Core State Standards," said O'Brien. "While a surface look would suggest some close alignment between the national initiative and the Colorado work to date, our stakeholders deserve the right to inspect the detail coming from the national level with a careful, critical eye. This process was driven by our statewide stakeholders and we will not leave them behind."

O'Brien said the evaluation will proceed using the following timeline:

- June 2: National common core standards released to the public.
- June 4: A third-party reviewer begins 30-day line-by-line technical analysis and alignment study, which will result in proposed recommendations for how national standards will enrich Colorado Academic Standards.
- July 6: CDE considers third-party recommendations.
- July 8—14: Colorado standards subcommittee members in Reading, Writing and Communicating and Math meet to discuss third-party recommendations.
- July 16—28: A redline subcommittee version of the Colorado Academic Standards is made available for public viewing with online survey provided for public feedback.
- July 21: State Board of Education discusses third-party recommendations via Web-conference.
- Aug. 2: Commissioner Jones makes a recommendation to the State Board of Education on adoption of the national common core.
- Aug 2: State Board of Education considers adoption of the national common core.

About Colorado's Standards

Colorado adopted new standards in 11 areas last December, following a two-year statewide conversation. These standards detail the broad themes, ideas and concepts that the state expects students to learn, experience and demonstrate for postsecondary success. The new standards replace those adopted in 1994 when the state first shifted to a common statewide understanding of what schools are expected to teach.

The 11 areas include dance; comprehensive health and physical education; math; music; reading, writing and communicating; science; social studies; drama and theatre arts; visual art and world languages and English language development.

Colorado's standards were adopted unanimously by the Colorado State Board of Education.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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