

NCPAPA Position Statement on the Common Core State Standards Implementation

The North Carolina Principals & Assistant Principals' Association (NCPAPA) states its support for the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative and the development of high-quality formative and summative assessments that are aligned to those standards. NCPAPA believes that the successful implementation of the CCSS will benefit students by significantly increasing their skills mastery across subjects and their ability to solve problems and think at a deeper conceptual level. NCPAPA further believes that the CCSS will ultimately promote overall higher student achievement, more consistency of quality student results across schools, greater equity in educational access, more collaboration among stakeholders, and higher levels of innovation.

While NCPAPA supports the CCSS and believes that principals are deeply committed to leading the instructional changes that are required, we also believe that a successful implementation will require a sustained, well-planned and adequately-funded effort over time to equip teachers to design and deliver instruction that aligns to the more challenging learning expectations for students.

For a successful implementation of the CCSS, NCPAPA recommends to policy makers the following:

- Delay the use of CCSS assessment results for high-stakes accountability purposes to allow for a transition period of at least two years of experience with the assessments. Penalties and sanctions related to test scores should not be invoked on students, teachers and principals before they have had time to ramp up to the higher standards.
- Fund robust support services and ongoing, coherent professional development to build the capacity of teachers and school leaders to successfully implement the CCSS.
- Adopt, through a collaborative process, high-quality, aligned K-12 student assessments that add value to the learning process while eliminating unnecessary testing that distracts from instruction.
- Fund the collaborative development of appropriately aligned, high quality curricula that helps teachers design instruction that provides students the knowledge and skills they need to master the more challenging standards.
- Provide adequate funding and support for instructional technology integration that supports student mastery of the CCSS and online assessments.