

Fall 2011



NMASCD Ensures that Successful Teaching and Learning are a Priority for All New Mexicans

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CCSI Grant in NM

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2012!

NMASCD Administrator of the Year



Check out the NMASCD website <http://nmascd.org>.

Common Core Standards-NMASCD Strives to Assist in the Adoption

As U.S. education transitions toward adoption of the Common Core Standards, NMASCD follows ASCD's lead in supporting efforts. NMASCD is dedicated to providing a venue for discussion and implementation assistance for New Mexico school districts and teacher preparation programs.

ASCD's director of public policy David Griffith shares a status report on the Common Core State Standards initiative and its implications for educators. Watch EL for more such reports in the coming months.

The long-standing K–12 academic standards developed by individual states have come under increasing scrutiny and criticism because of the standards' varying quality and the resulting wide disparities in student proficiency as measured under No Child Left Behind and highlighted by National Assessment of Educational Progress scores.

In June 2010, a new set of academic K–12 standards in language arts and mathematics were publicly introduced. The standards, known as the Common Core, are the joint initiative of the membership associations representing U.S. governors and state superintendents; they were developed with the input of states and in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders. ASCD is an endorsing partner of the Common Core State

Standards Initiative. *Read the entire article.*

Common Core State Standards Initiative

The Common Core State Standards initiative is a set of expectations and goals for K-12 students in our schools across the nation. These standards define the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that students should experience in their education. This initiative is a state government led effort coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Forty-four states and the District of Columbia have endorsed these standards and are now in the process of thinking about the implications and immense challenges involved in the implementation process.

The Common Core State Standards are currently developed for English Language Arts and Mathematics. They are available at: Common Core Standards Initiative website <http://www.corestandards.org/resources>. According to the designers they are focused, coherent, clear and rigorous, internationally benchmarked, research based and concentrated on college and career readiness. Not everyone is supportive of the CCSS and there is opposition to the notion of national standards, competitive efforts based on Race To the Top, and the need for local autonomy in educational policy and decision making. However, New Mexico adopted the CCSS in October of 2010.

Advocates of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) cite the need for clear and consistent learning goals to prepare all of our children for college and careers. Research as well as effective educational models in the country and across the world inform the Common Core Standards development. They are touted as clear, consistent, understandable goals that are aligned with college and work experiences. The CCSS will replace the current state standards. These state standards vary greatly from state to state in both content and rigor and the CCSS will be uniform across states that have adopted them. There is potential for building leadership, networks to support collaborative learning, a new understanding of assessments and a systemic approach for a learning framework based on shared goals. The ultimate goal for CCSS is to improve student learning through more rigorous standards and assessments. The transition to these standards will require significant efforts, resources, and thoughtful coordination.

There are two testing consortia for the CCSS, the Smarter Balance Consortium and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. New Mexico is a Governing Board member of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). The consortium includes 24 states and the District of Columbia with 17 states serving on the Governing Board. PARCC is designing an assessment

system to support the Common Core Standards. They are currently thinking about an assessment portfolio including two summative classroom based assessments; the inclusion of diagnostic assessments in reading, writing and mathematics as well as a computer based summative assessment. The PARCC assessments will not be ready until 2014-2015. For more information please refer to: <http://www.parcconline.org/>

The Public Education Department, under Secretary Skandera, has a CCSS planning committee for providing recommendations to PED regarding CCSS, and in time, a team will develop an implementation plan for the transition to the Common Core Standards for NM. The department has a commitment to study, learn, and develop a strategic plan to assist Districts as they implement CCSS. Several meetings have taken place and the information about this work is at <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/CCS/index.html>. PED is also conducting a survey of the District efforts in the CCSS transition to identify their needs. The statewide PED implementation plan is forthcoming.

Many other states are in the initial stages of gathering data and determining a plan for implementation. Each CCSS state is developing strategies for this huge undertaking in tandem with national developments. They have to consider curriculum, assessment, technology, instruction, as well as thinking about the structures, processes, professional development, and resources to effectively implement the standards. The PARCC assessments will not be ready for several years and there is a significant amount of work to be done in the meantime. For example, beginning with the required CCSS Mathematical Practices and building the mathematical content knowledge needed for effective teaching are actions that can begin now. Several organizations are providing statewide conferences for supporting the Common Core implementation including the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators (www.unm.edu/~nmcsa/) and Mathematically Connected Communities (www.mc2.nmsu.edu). This transition will take collective wisdom, resources, and thoughtful planning to make a difference for our students. It is a major undertaking but also an opportunity to improve education.

Gates' Foundation Grant Awarded to ASCD-NM Selected as One of Five Award Recipients

ASCD has been awarded \$3 Million to Aid Nationwide Common Core Standards Implementation in five states, including New Mexico. *NMASC* is partnering with ASCD to implement this multifaceted program across the state to support teachers in the classroom and advance understanding and implementation of the common core state standards.

"ASCD is uniquely positioned to assist with the country's common core standards implementation," said ASCD CEO Gene R. Carter. "Because rapid adoption of the common core standards has outstripped both professional and public understanding of the standards and their potential for changing the learning and teaching paradigm, it is essential that district and school leaders have the opportunity to learn about the standards and

raise questions that will help guide their transition, implementation, and communication strategies. Our diverse membership and experience in providing quality professional development can help educators make successful common core standards implementation a reality."

"Our shared goal is to help districts and states realize the capacity of the new standards to fundamentally change the learning experience of students. We must ensure all students can acquire the skills required for college and career success," said Vicki Phillips, director of education, college ready, at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

ASCD's plan supports the goal of effectively implementing clear, consistent, college- and career-ready standards by providing broad access to a suite of processes and tools for states and districts that will optimize effective, results-based standards implementation. ASCD will also convene a series of meetings across the country to hear from educators about what they need for successful implementation.

Common Core Stats

- Forty-two states have adopted the Common Core Standards
- Two states (New Mexico and Arizona) are reported to have adopted the standards but have not issued any formal announcement or provided official notification of their action.
- Six states (Alaska, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Texas, and Virginia) have yet to adopt the Standards.

States' identification as having adopted the Common Core State Standards is based on official announcements by state departments of education or published stories in reputable news sources from within the particular state.

The 1st annual **New Mexico Educator's Conference**
presents

Common Core Standards: Cultivating Uncommon Capacity

June 6-7, 2012 at La Cueva High School, Albuquerque, NM

Sponsored by NMAASCD, NMSTE, NMAACTE,
PDS, NMNBCT, Action Research

Watch for more information!



Dr. Jerry Harmon was honored at the annual NMSC conference in July as the NMAASCD Administrator of the Year. Dr. Harmon has been the Dean of Education at

ENMU since January of 2005. Before that he worked at WNMU since 1997 as Director of Field Experiences and Dean of Education. Before coming to the college level, Dr. Harmon worked as a teacher and coach and served as a School Board member in South Dakota districts. He has received several awards including Teacher of the Year and Excellence in Education. Dr. Harmon says that his career is truly a reflection of all the lessons learned from previous positions and relationships with his mentors and colleagues but all of it can be traced to lessons learned as an elementary school teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. HARMON!

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