

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, National PTA speaks with a powerful voice on behalf of every child and provides the [best tools](#) for parents and communities to help their children become successful students. National PTA volunteers have adopted several position statements and resolutions, beginning in 1981, in support of voluntary, clearer, higher academic standards for all students. You can read our [position statements](#) on our website.

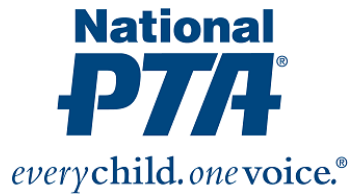
Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misinformation circulating about the Common Core State Standards, so National PTA has included a [CCSS section](#) on our website to educate parents about the [standards](#). It is important to note that the standards are widely supported from [Governors](#) to the [business community](#). National PTA has also compiled a [PTA CCSS FAQ](#) document for more information.

It is important to identify the real cause of concern; many parents are finding that their concerns are not actually related to Common Core, but rather, issues surrounding implementation (teacher training, aligning curriculum, etc) and assessments (testing schedule, accountability, privacy). Each state has unique challenges, but it is important not to back away from demanding the highest expectations of our children via the new Common Core State Standards. National PTA stands firm in its position to implement and assess properly. The road will be bumpy, but we cannot allow these challenges to undermine this strong bipartisan effort to raise the bar for our children.

Myth: The Common Core State Standards are not internationally benchmarked, and were not approved by the validation committee. **Fact: International benchmarking played a significant role in the creation of the standards. The [criteria](#) used for writing the standards and the [list](#) of the validation committee are readily available.**

Myth: States are not leading the effort. The Federal government is taking over the educational system. Governors were forced to sign on before the standards were written. **Fact: The CCSS initiative is indeed led by States, with coordination from the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The federal government has not been involved in initiating or developing the [CCSS Process](#). Prior to the standards being written, 48 states voluntarily signed on to help create the standards, and of those, 45 eventually adopted.**

Myth: States were coerced into adopting the CCSS with Race to the Top (RTT) and other Federal funding. **Fact: States and Districts who applied for Race to the Top funds were not required to adopt CCSS. States and districts who applied for Race to the Top funds were required to adopt [college and career ready standards](#) and assess students based on those standards. The rationale behind adopting college and career-ready standards is based on evidence that the United States is not adequately, or consistently, preparing students for either college or career. Two states received Race to the Top grants with standards that were not the Common Core.**



Myth: A federal database is required in the Common Core State Standards. The Federal government is compiling personal data about my child for the purpose of data mining. **Fact: Common Core is not a mechanism for federal data collection. Federal law, [FERPA](#), prohibits the reporting of aggregate data that could identify individual students. In addition, the federal government does not have access to the student-level information held in state databases. States have collected student information through state assessments in accordance with state and federal law, and will continue these practices under new assessments. The confusion in this area often surrounds InBloom – a new database option that five states have chosen to store their data. This is, rightly, a state decision, and National PTA strongly supports the privacy of children and families. Common Core does not require data collection.**

Myth: Common core is expanding standardized testing. Students will be tested on information they have not learned. **Fact: As states implement new college and career-ready standards, they will also transition to new assessments designed to better measure whether our students are on track for college and career readiness. The new tests will replace old state testing—not add to it—and, for the first time, comparable achievement information will be available from state to state. [PARCC](#) and [Smarter Balance](#) are the two consortia that states are working with for the development of assessments. National PTA is creating state specific [assessment and accountability guides](#) so parents will know how their state will be handling assessments. National PTA believes that assessments should be used to help parents and teachers determine the specific academic needs of students and increase opportunities for students as outlined in our [Position Statement](#) regarding assessments.**

Myth: The Common Core State Standards are a national curriculum that will “dumb down” our kids. **Fact: [The Common Core State Standards](#) do not dictate the details of academic curriculum; they only provide clear expectations for what each student must know to leave school prepared for college and career. Standards equal the end goal, or the WHAT Curriculum equals HOW These terms are not interchangeable.**