

### **Why do students need the Common Core standards now?**

In the United States, standards for students varied from state to state, so some states had tougher standards. For example, an “A” student in Washington may actually be trailing behind a “C” student in Colorado (or vice versa). Common Core changes that by providing consistent learning expectations for all students no matter where they live, and creating clear goals for what students should know and be able to do at every grade level. Schools and teachers in Washington are starting to use the Common Core now because our state needs to do a better job at preparing students to be college and career ready. Here's why, in part, we need Common Core:

- Washington has the 12th largest achievement gap in the nation;
- Less than half of our students graduate from high school ready for college (as measured by SAT and ACT college entrance exams);
- 50% of students entering college in Washington need remedial classes in math and English to learn things they should have learned in high school; and
- By 2018, 2 out of every 3 jobs in Washington will require a college degree or certificate. Washington is a leader in job creation — but those jobs are going to people educated in other states or other countries. Our kids should have the skills to compete and succeed in our homegrown industries. Raising expectations with the Common Core will help all students, no matter where they live, become better prepared with the skills and knowledge needed to collaborate and compete with their peers in other states and around the world.

Questions? Contact Debra Howell, NBCT  
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