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News Release

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Draft K-12 Common Core State Standards Available for Comment

NGA Center, CCSSO Release First Official Public Draft

WASHINGTON—The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) today released the first official public draft of the K-12 standards as part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a process being led by governors and chief state school officers in 51 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. These draft standards, developed together with teachers, school administrators and experts, seek to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

The NGA Center and CCSSO have received feedback from national organizations representing, but not limited to teachers, postsecondary education (including community colleges), civil rights groups, English language learners, and students with disabilities. The NGA Center and CCSSO encourage those interested in the standards to provide further feedback by Friday, April 2, 2010, at www.corestandards.org.

"We are pleased to release the K-12 standards today and to begin reviewing comments from the public," said **Dane Linn, director of the NGA Center's Education Division**. "These standards build upon the goals articulated in the college- and career-readiness standards released last year and will ensure our students are prepared to compete and succeed in a global economy. We look forward to working with educators, leaders and state board members in the states as they consider adopting these standards that will guide their educational programs."

"The feedback and comments states and our additional stakeholders have provided us are solidifying these standards into the better standards our students need," stated **Gene Wilhoit, executive director of CCSSO**. "We will continue to work diligently and tirelessly to ensure these standards are where they need to be, and today we are asking the public to help us do just that."

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The standards are:

- **Aligned with college and work expectations;**
- **Clear, understandable and consistent;**
- **Include rigorous content *and* application of knowledge through high-order skills;**
- **Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;**
- **Informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and**
- **Evidence- and research-based.**

The standards are expected to be finalized in early Spring. For more information, visit www.corestandards.org.

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Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 50 states, three territories and two commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit www.nga.org.

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public. www.ccsso.org.

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