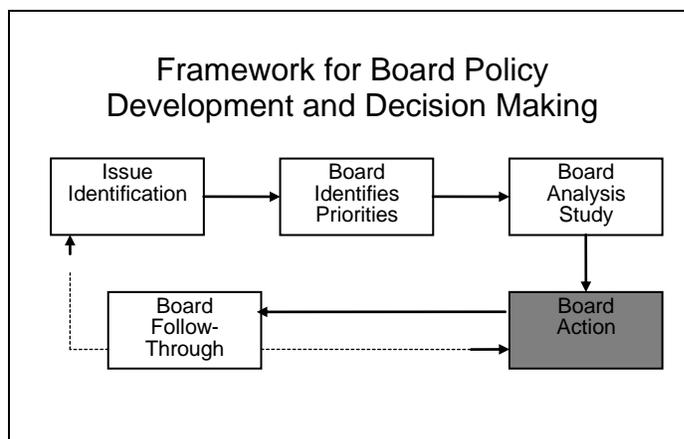


Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

July 29, 2010



Agenda Item: Common Core Standards

Iowa Goal(s): All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

Equity Impact: The Iowa Core and Common Core Standards are designed to help all students achieve at a high level.

Presenter: Kevin Fangman, Acting Director
Iowa Department of Education

Attachments: 1

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board adopt the Common Core Standards in K-12 English language arts and mathematics.

Background: At the State Board retreat in June, information was presented about the Common Core Standards and the process the Iowa Department of Education would use to see how they compare to the Iowa Core. A team of content experts in English language arts and mathematics did a detailed comparison of the Common Core and the Iowa Core. Overall, there was a high degree of similarity between the two documents. The attachment gives you more detailed information.

Examining the Alignment of the Iowa Core to the Common Core: English Language Arts and Mathematics Summary Report for the Iowa State Board of Education

Background Information

An alignment study was commissioned and completed by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) in July 2010 to examine the degree of alignment of the Iowa Core (literacy and mathematics) to the Common Core Standards (English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics). The alignment study was commissioned to examine the questions below, as well as to help determine what additional concepts and skills Iowa should add to what is established in the Common Core.

The *Achieve* organization (<http://achieve.org/>), an independent, bipartisan, non-profit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C., developed a web-based alignment tool along with support documentation that was used to examine the alignment of the Iowa Core with the Common Core Standards.

Study Questions

1. What is the degree of alignment between the Iowa Core and the Common Core?
2. What portions of the Common Core are not covered by anything from the Iowa Core?
3. What portions of the Iowa Core are not matched to anything in the Common Core?

Project Staffing

The literacy panel consisted of experts from the DE (one representative), area education agencies (AEAs) (two representatives), and local districts (three representatives), for a total of six literacy panel members. The math panel consisted of experts from the DE (one representative), AEAs (two representatives), local districts (two representatives), independent consultants (two representatives), and from a state professional organization (one representative) for a total of eight math panel members. An alignment specialist from one of the Iowa AEAs was asked to fulfill the role of session facilitator and technical support, with additional support provided by *Achieve* staff.

Results

Figure 1. English Language Arts

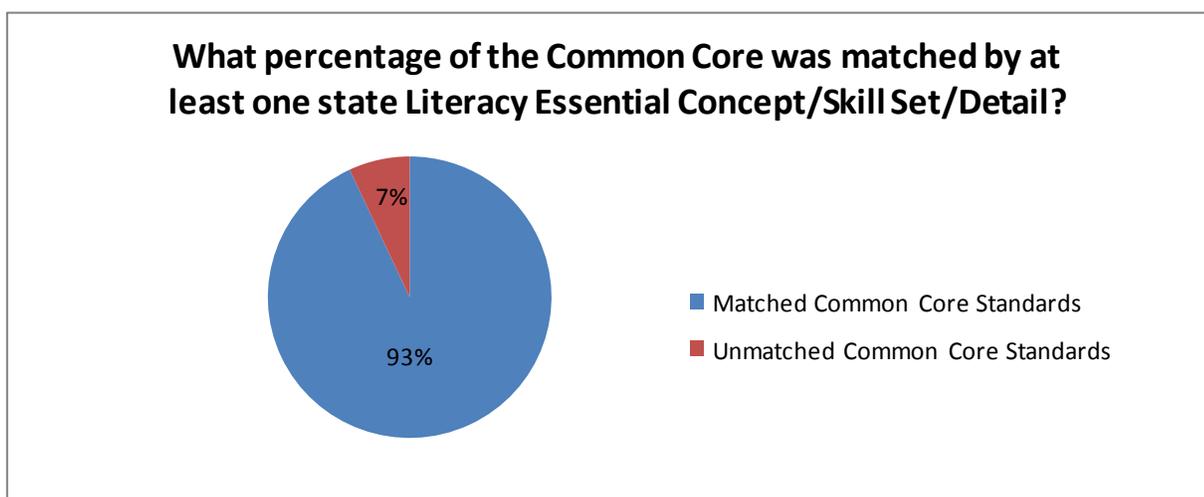


Figure 2. English Language Arts

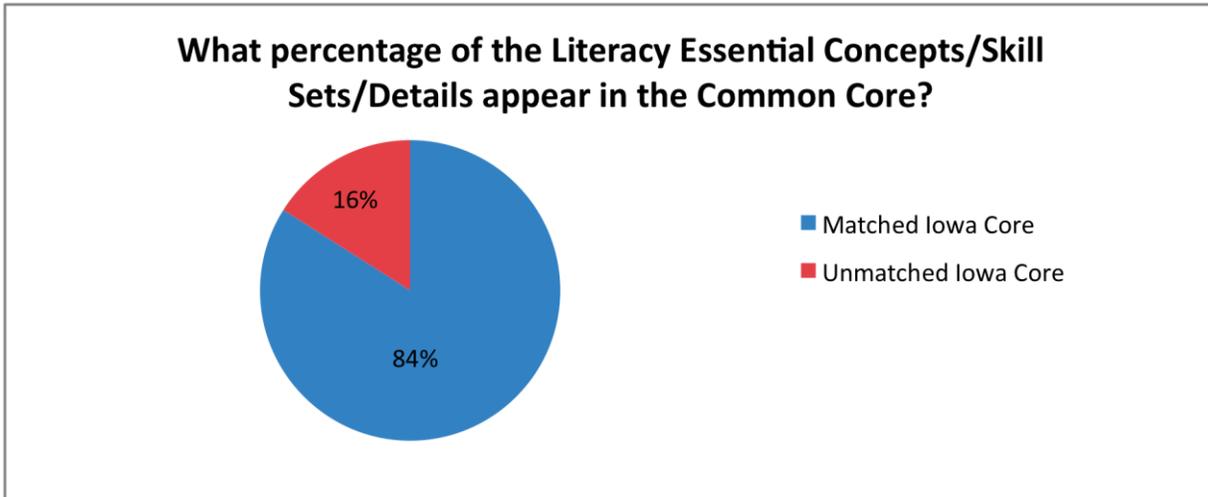


Figure 3. Mathematics

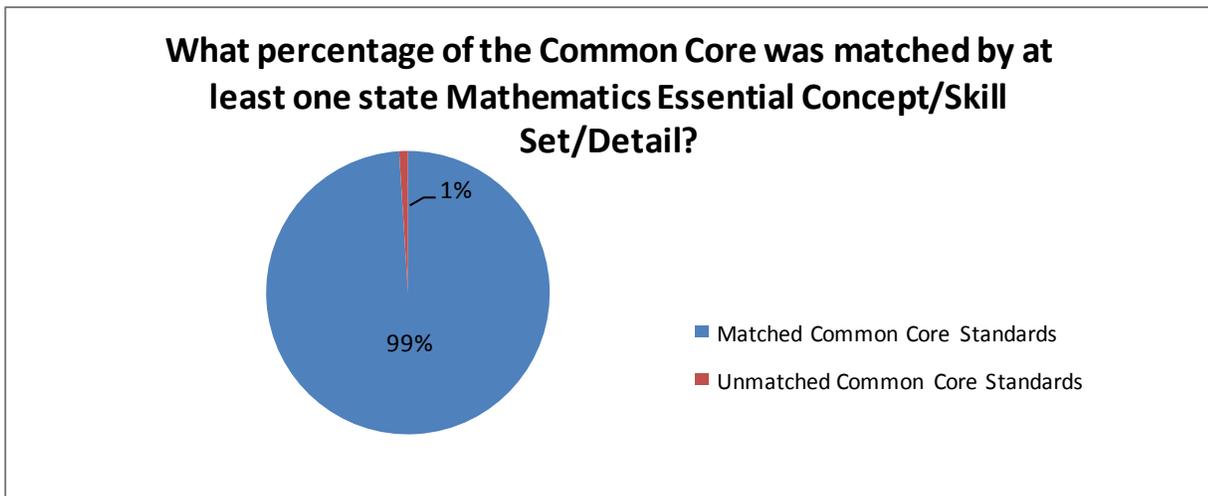
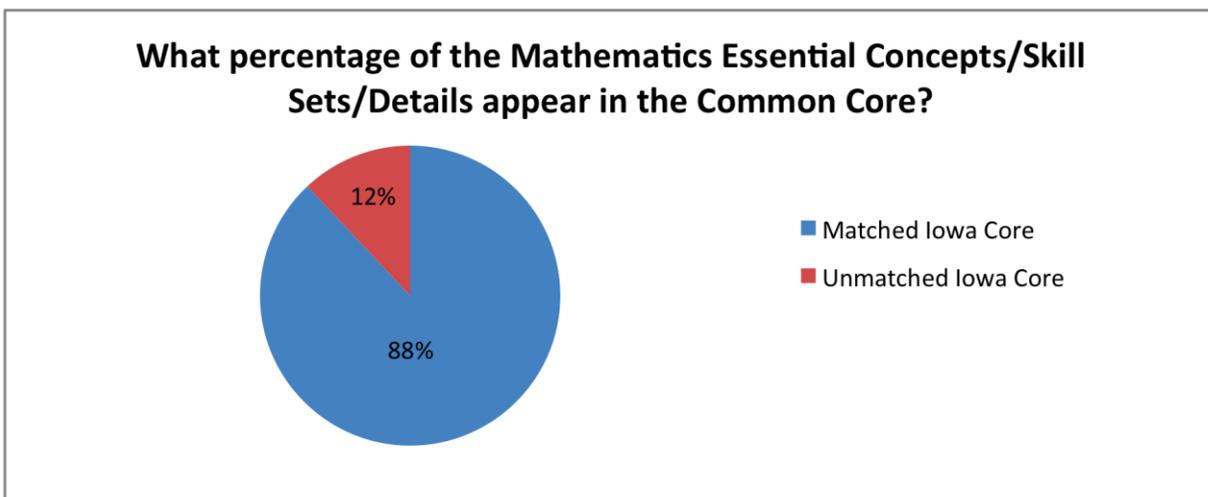


Figure 4. Mathematics



15 Percent Consideration

All states are allowed to keep 15 percent of their own standards in addition to the Common Core. The ELA and mathematics teams have identified a few additions. These will be studied further and brought to the State Board in September.

Next Steps

1. More work will be done identifying additional essential concepts and skills from the Iowa Core.
2. Updated ELA and mathematics standards document will be presented at the September State Board Meeting.

Additional Information:

Project Method and Activities

Table 1. Explanation of Project Activities

Project Activity	Explanation
1. Document Review and Q & A	Panel members read all <i>Achieve</i> support documents and asked the session facilitator clarifying questions.
2. Database Navigation and Use	Panel members used the <i>Achieve</i> User Guide (Appendix C) to log in and practice using the online database.
3. Rater Calibration	A pair of raters independently matched and rated the Iowa Core to the Common Core Standards, discussed similarities and differences, then rated another standard until the pair approached rating in a similar manner.
4. Primary Data Entry (IA)*	Panel members each independently matched and rated pre-assigned standards.
5. Secondary Data Reflection (IA)	Panel members each independently reviewed and commented on pre-assigned standards that had already been reviewed by a primary reviewer.
6. Finalize Consensus and Clean Up	Disagreements, coding errors, and omissions were corrected.
7. Define the 15 Percent	Content from unmatched portions of the Iowa Core not matched to a Common Core Standard and other sources was selected for proposed addition to the revised Iowa Core.
8. Send Proposal to State Board (IA)	A summary report and proposal will be provided to the Iowa State Board of Education for consideration.

*Activities with an (IA) designation are activities designed specifically for the Iowa alignment project, not by *Achieve*.