

Why should Iowa be concerned with College and Career Readiness Standards?

Are we ready to make a shift?

Webinar

March 10, 2014

Presenter: Phyllis Hinton, Iowa Dept. of Ed. AEL Consultant

Objectives:

Participants will be able to

Identify a broad view of what the common core standards are.

Identify rationale for why College and Career Readiness Standards are important for adult learners.

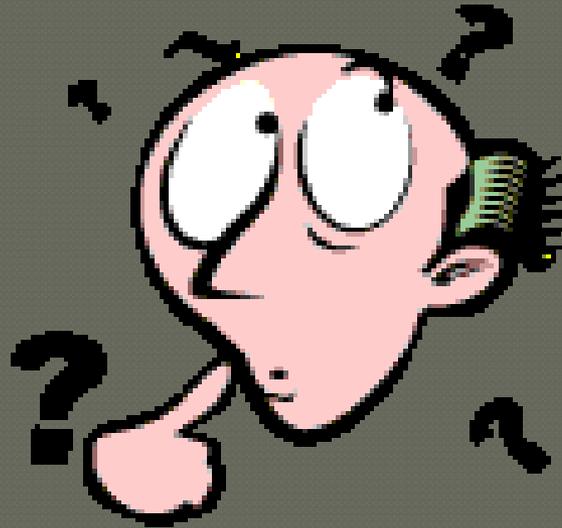
Reflect back a little on education in Iowa to see how we got here.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMsNct4X_GU

So...

In starting to re-think, re-design, and re-imagine education...



What do we mean by common core standards?

Where did they come from?

Why are they important to adult learners?

Since standards-based education took hold in the 1990s, educators have been searching for ways to prioritize and organize the content embedded within standards so that they can focus on the core ideas within a discipline.

The Common Core Standards initiative is an outgrowth of that thinking. The hope is that there would be “**common skills/requirements**” at each grade level taught across the country to “**standardize**” the expectations of what skills a learner acquired - no matter the zip code.

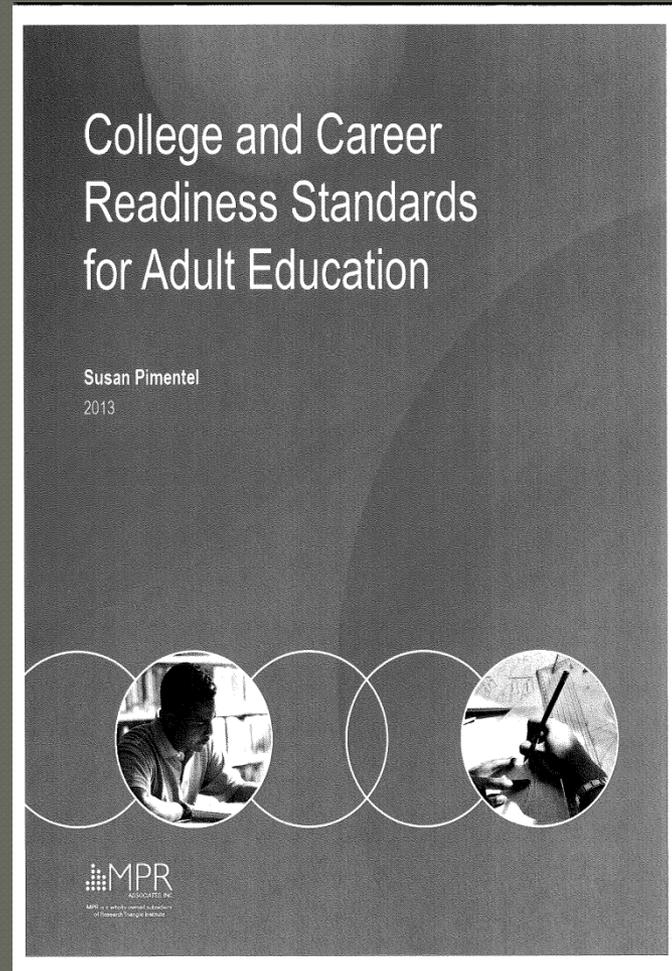
Take a look...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5s0rRk9sER0>

College and Career Readiness Common Core Standards (CCRCCS) for adult learners are part of the result. [Office of Vocational and Adult Education 2013]



A screenshot of the Iowa Department of Education website. The header includes the state seal and navigation links for Home, Adult, Career, and Community College, and PK-12. The main content area is titled "Iowa Core" and lists various subject areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, 21st Century Skills, Essential Elements for Students with Significant Disabilities, Resources, Contacts, Characteristics of Effective Instruction, Universal Constructs, and Background. A sidebar on the right contains a section titled "On this page..." with links to "Iowa Core Resources" and "Implementation Planning", and a "What's New" section with a link to "Cognitive Complexity".



<http://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/CCRStandardsAdultEd.pdf>

The federal government was NOT involved in the development of the Common Core Standards.

This has been a state-led and driven initiative from the beginning.

States have voluntarily adopted the Common Core Standards based on the timelines and context in their state.

Iowa has adopted the Common Core Standards and has its Iowa Core Standards published on the DE website.

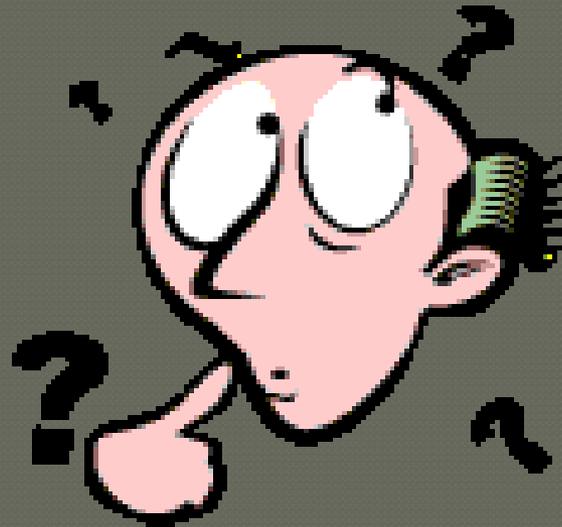
<https://www.educateiowa.gov/article/2013/09/11/common-core-iowa-what-you-need-know>

The Common Core State Standards in Literacy and Mathematics were integrated into the Iowa Core by Iowa State Board of Education action in 2010.

All school districts and accredited nonpublic schools were required to fully implement the Iowa Core in grades 9-12 by July 1, 2012
and grades K-8 by the 2014-2015 school year.

So?

What's the purpose of the common core standards again?



Common Core State Standards Mission Statement

“The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.”

<http://www.corestandards.org>

So?

I work with adult students, how does this apply to me?



Imperative to address because...

- There are more than 12 million adults without a high school credential in the labor force today. . .
- Key college and career ready knowledge and skills are closely linked to being able to get the training necessary to earn a living wage. . .
- 2x as many jobs over the next decade will require a postsecondary credential. . .

It is crucial that adult students have the opportunity to acquire skills they need for post -secondary success.



But our students bring in their life experience and skills to our programs, and we use our placement tests to diagnose the gaps...

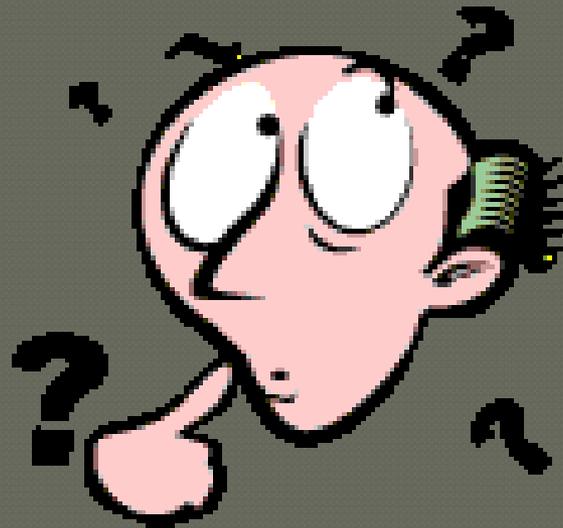
CASAS Basic Skills Content Standards

- In 2010, CASAS Reading and Math Content Standards were aligned to Common Core State Standards, showing strong alignment.
- In May 2013, CASAS commissioned an update to the CASAS/CCSS alignments to show relationship to the April 1013 OVAE “College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education” report.
 - Strong alignment found between CASAS Math Content standards and Math Standards selected for CCR.

Let's hear what CASAS says about CCR...

<http://www.casas.org/product-overviews/curriculum-management-instruction/CCCS>

So, what does this mean for me?



OVAE's (Office of Vocational and Adult Education) long commitment to promoting state-level use of adult education content standards, the central purpose of the CCRCSS effort is to **forge a stronger link among adult education, postsecondary education, and the world of work.** (OVAE College and Career Readiness Common Core Standards, April 2013)

It presents a starting point for raising awareness and understanding of the critical skills and knowledge expected and required for success in colleges, technical training programs, and employment in the 21st century.

Therefore, **there will be a number of shifts in thinking we'll need to make.**

*Further analysis reveals that the **shift from a culture of teaching to a culture of learning** would require a change in focus and environment.*

“Students are directly involved and invested in the discovery of their own knowledge. Through collaboration and cooperation with others, students engage in experiential learning which is authentic, holistic, and challenging. Students are empowered to use prior knowledge to construct new learning and develop meta cognitive processes to reflect on their thinking.” [Iowa Core]

Content, instruction, and assessment must work together to develop the competencies and habits of mind that are essential for future success in college, careers, and citizenry in an increasingly complex and global society.

The importance of college and career readiness for adult students cannot be overstated.

Increasingly, students entering the workforce are discovering that they need critical knowledge and skills that are used on a regular basis.

They recognize that pursuing a career pathway that pays enough to support a family and provides genuine potential for advancement hinges on being able to perform the complex tasks identified by these standards as critical for postsecondary success.

The College and Career Readiness State Standards (CCR for short) are ambitious. For example, the English Language Arts (ELA)/literacy standards demand robust analytic and reasoning skills and strong oral and written communication skills.

So, some shifts are needing to occur:

From Percentages to Performances...



Think of this analogy...

Would you board a plane that could reach 85% of takeoff speed?

With a pilot who'd mastered everything except landing?

So?

Let's look at an adult class at a community college using these standards as an example.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HshmFn3L3bU>

What's different with using the CCR?

Teaching is to the standards.

The Common Core State Standards/College and Career Readiness Standards prepare students for college and/or the workplace.

There is no mandated curriculum, and it is up to the individual programs and teachers to develop the curricula to elevate student knowledge to match the standards they have adopted.

Existing curricula will need to be replaced with new plans, aligned to the new standards.

Teacher preparation, textbook design, high school equivalency assessments , placement assessments (CASAS), and the NRS will follow suit, as they are currently, in large part, inconsistent with those supporting the Common Core.

Shift 1

Earning a high school equivalency diploma is a starting point, not a stopping point.



However genuine the concerns may be about setting the bar higher for college and career readiness,

- a **willingness to act** on what educators and employers have clearly identified as non-negotiable knowledge and skills **is**
 - **essential** to enabling adult learners **to meet the real-world demands of postsecondary training and employment.**

This will require a number of shifts on our part.

Key concepts demand that we **slow down** and devote more time to **allow for reasoning / thinking / discussing** as well as the necessary hard work and practice to be successful.

They also demand we revamp the mile-wide, inch- deep approach in curriculum and textbooks or seeing a high school equivalency diploma as an end point.



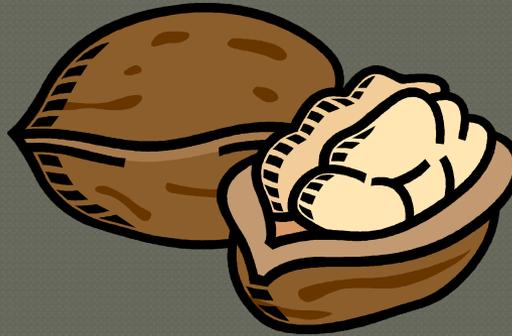
This is not rocket science — just building a sound understanding that will prepare our students to compete in a world that becomes more competitive by the day.

And that could lead to rocket science!

Take a look.. Think--- Are these some strategies we could use with adults?

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/ccss-literacy-science-classroom>

In a Nutshell



College and Career Readiness Standards are from the Common Core Standards, which were developed through a collaboration with stakeholders from educators, employers, and states.

Iowa feels these are important to our adult learners' success.

Local programs get to choose the curricula and practices needed to best serve their students' goals.

These standards emphasize critical thinking and analytical skills and will enable students to better compete in the global marketplace.

The bottom line is that our students deserve best practices to help them be successful.

So, deep process and do a touch-back...

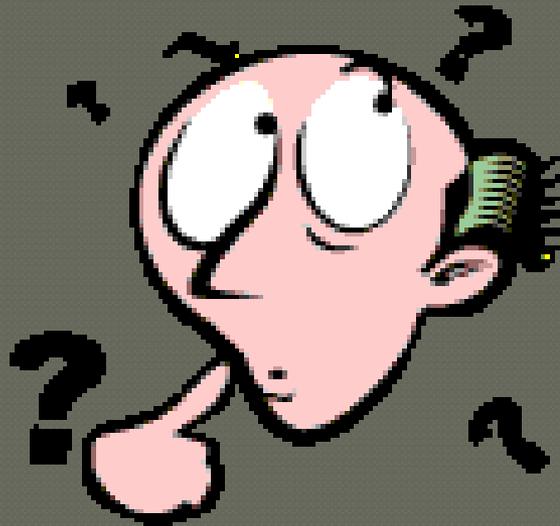
What generally are College and Career Readiness Standards?

What is their purpose?

Are they federally mandated?

Who will determine the curricula?

Where are you in making a shift?





Thank you !

An evaluation will be sent to you electronically following this webinar and your feedback is much appreciated!

The **next webinar** will be Tuesday, March 25th from 1:30-2:30.

Focus: Introduction to CCR ELA Reading Standards.

What Are They?

Goal: to introduce participants to the 10 Reading CCR Standards.

Objective: Participants will be aware of the anchor reading standards to help them with their local Standards-in-Action team work.

Registration is on the DE website PD Calendar to receive the link.

See you then!

