



The Standard of Excellence  
in Teacher Preparation

2010 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 466-7496  
Fax: (202) 296-6620  
<http://www.ncate.org>

Statement of James G. Cibulka  
President  
**National Council for Accreditation of Teacher  
Education**

on  
**Common Core Standards Initiative**

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The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) applauds the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Common Core State Standards Initiative, and their release of the latest draft student standards in the areas of English language arts and mathematics, which is an important first step in a process of transforming expectations for P-12 students in the United States.

Development of common core state standards in mathematics and English language arts which drive curricula from Minnesota to Mississippi, from California to Connecticut, is a landmark effort in the history of American education, and its significance cannot be understated. The Common Core State Standards Initiative recognizes that American students must be able to compete in a global marketplace. To accomplish this effectively and fairly, so that all students have the same opportunity to excel, students across America must be held to a high common standard. With increased mobility of the U.S. population, as economic shifts move jobs to new locations, and with increased global competition, common standards for students become evermore paramount.

NCATE is committed to ensuring that teachers, education leaders, and specialists in P-12 schools have the knowledge and skills to improve P-12 student achievement. Having common core state standards in English and mathematics, with other disciplinary areas to come, will raise the bar for all in the education enterprise. NCATE will ensure that educator preparation standards and assessments reflect the knowledge and skills educators need to help P-12 students meet the new common core standards. NCATE will examine the new standards through the lens of expectations for teachers' content mastery, pedagogical content skills, ability to affect student learning, clinical preparation, professional development and other dimensions of teaching effectiveness, both for novice and experienced teachers, and related skills for other professional P-12 personnel. NCATE will work closely with states, disciplinary associations and other organizations as the initiative moves forward.