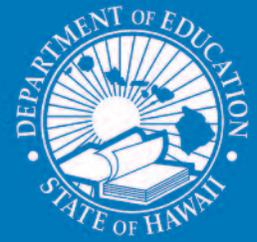


Mythbusters



A fact-check on most common myths you may have heard about the Common Core Standards and Hawaii's public schools.

Myth #1

The Standards are a national curriculum, requiring all Hawaii schools to teach the same prescribed lessons.

FACT: Standards are not curriculum and they do not tell teachers how to teach. Standards simply provide expectations for the knowledge and skills students should master at each grade to graduate prepared for college and careers. A curriculum, on the other hand, includes activities and lessons chosen by teachers to help students understand and gain the knowledge and skills identified in the standards.

For example, while standards expect that students should be able to add and subtract by a certain grade, teachers remain in control over how students learn these concepts. Teachers decide their lesson plans and the instructional strategies they will use to support their students. Teachers across the state from Pahoia on the Big Island to Waimea Canyon on Kauai will have access to high quality curricular materials, aligned to the standards, to support learning in their classroom.



Myth #2

The federal government developed the Standards, and Hawaii teachers were not involved.

FACT: Educators nationwide, including Hawaii teachers, curriculum coordinators, department heads and others, helped write, provide feedback and fine-tune the standards. Other advocates, including parents and even students, were also involved in the development of the standards.

What's more, the federal government did not fund or participate in the development of the standards. Hawaii chose to participate in the writing of the standards and, in 2010, the Hawaii State Board of Education – not the federal government – voted to adopt the Hawaii Common Core to replace the state's previous standards.

Myth #3

The Standards allow the federal government to collect personal information about students.

FACT: Hawaii's decision to adopt and implement the Common Core does not include requirements related to data collection or the sharing of student information. Private student information remains protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For more, see www.hawaiipublicschools.org/DOE%20Forms/CommonCoreLetter.pdf

Myth #4

The Standards will dumb down education in Hawaii.

FACT: The Common Core State Standards are based on standards from high-performing states and countries, grounded in research, best practices, feedback and lessons learned from teachers across the country. The standards provide clearer expectations that are critical for students to learn for college and career readiness. According to a Scholastic survey of Hawaii's teachers, 82 percent are enthusiastic about Common Core implementation (www.scholastic.com/primarysources/hi-2.htm).

Myth #5

The Standards will cause student test scores to drop.

FACT: In 2014-15, Hawaii will have a new test for English language arts and mathematics. This new test, called the Smarter Balanced assessment, will measure how well students are learning the Hawaii Common Core. While results are expected to be lower, they cannot be compared to old results from past exams. The results will establish a new baseline and provide a much clearer and more accurate picture for educators and families about student performance.

Still have questions?

Visit HawaiiPublicSchools.org to read the Standards, watch informational videos and read all you need to know about how the Hawaii Common Core will benefit your child's education.