

THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS IN CONTEXT

In the spring of 2009, in an effort unprecedented in the history of U.S. education, governors and state commissioners of education from across the United States formed the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI).

The goal of this initiative was to develop a set of shared standards ensuring that students in every state are held to the same level of expectations as students in the world's highest-performing countries. 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.

The Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governor Association committed to this work with representatives from 48 states, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia. The task engaged the talents and expertise of educators, content specialists, researchers, community groups, and national organizations. In addition, the draft standards were informed by feedback from teachers, parents, business leaders and the general public

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However, articulation of student learning in standards and skills, no matter how rigorous, relevant, or robust, does not give meaning or context to that learning. Meaning comes from one's worldview and is influenced by the context and community in which the learning impacts the student.

ADVENTIST EDUCATION STANDARDS

Standards, what learners should know (content) and be able to do (skills) serve as the framework for curriculum development. Standards in NAD Seventh-day Adventist schools reflect the Adventist worldview across the K-12 curricula as well as the integration of national and provincial/state standards. The Adventist worldview accepts the Bible as the standard by which everything else is measured. Four key concepts emerge from a biblical worldview that can be used as a lens for curriculum development, as well as informing the essential question and big ideas of any content area:

- Creation (What is God's intention?)
- Fall (How has God's purpose been distorted?)
- Redemption (How does God help us to respond?)
- Re-creation (How can we be restored in the image of God?)