Common Sense and Common Core: Why Both Are Needed

TOOLS Conference
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Common

• 1a. of or relating to community at large and known to the community

• 1b belonging to or shared by two or more individuals or by all members of a group

First known use 13th century
Common Sense

- Common sense is a basic ability to perceive, understand, and judge things, which is shared by ("common to") nearly all people, and can be reasonably expected of nearly all people without any need for debate.
Common Core State Standards...

- is an education initiative in the United States that details what K-12 students should know in English language arts and mathematics at the end of each grade in order to graduate high school prepared to succeed in entry-level careers, introductory academic college courses, and workforce training programs.
Education resists change

Not our first rodeo...
15th century

The printing press...

“the world has got along perfectly well for six thousand years without printing, and has no need to change now.”

LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE AGE OF COGNITIVESCIENCE AND ADVANCED CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY,
DEBORAH MERRITT
“Students today depend on paper too much. They don’t know how to write on a slate without getting chalk dust all over themselves. They can’t clean a slate properly. What will they do when they run out of paper?”

Principal’s publication in 1815
“Students today depend too much upon ink. They don’t know how to use a pen knife to sharpen a pencil. Pen and ink will never replace the pencil.”

National Association of Teachers, 1907
“Ballpoint pens will be the ruin of education in our country. Students use these devices and then throw them away. The American values of thrift and frugality are being discarded. Businesses and banks will never allow such expensive luxuries.”

Federal Teacher, 1950
Assessment Timeline

1970s & 1980s
“Minimum competency”
Ensure all HS graduates can demonstrate “minimum competency”

1990s & 2000s
“Proficiency”
Boost every child to proficiency in reading and math and start gathering the data to understand student progress

Now
“College and career readiness”
Measures individual student progress to ensure students have complex problem-solving skills for career and college readiness

“I find we’re very excited, our kids are ready for the transition. It’s going to be a challenge, but it’s exactly what our kids need to prepare for college and go out in the work-place.”

At each inflection point people have been nervous, but each time it has been the right thing to move forward
Table Talk

• What **response** would you get in your community (site, district, parents) if you asked....

What is the common core?
Common Sense & the Common Core

• What common core is not…
  – A Silver Bullet
  – A Quick Fix
  – Easy as pie

“Common Core is NOT going to do the teaching…we are!”
What Common Core is...

- Standards...just standards!
  - expectations that outline what students should be learning
  - clear set of shared goals for what knowledge and skills will help our students succeed
  - rigorous content & application of knowledge through high-order skills
What Common Core is...

The Right Focus—

College and Career

The goal of the CCSS is to make sure that all students are well prepared for college, technical education, or the workplace after high school graduation.
If it ain’t broke,....

Do we really need Common Core?
Important Facts to Know About Our Students in California:

California’s graduation rate for the first decade of this century

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>69.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>77.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Improving, but about 1 in 4 students do not graduate from high school in four years.

Dataquest
Graduates Eligible for UC/CSU Entrance

For 2011-12, a grand total of 38.3% graduated with required courses to enter public university system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>28.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>24.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>45%</td>
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</table>
College remediation rates

• Only 25% of students who took the ACT met the readiness benchmarks in all four subjects (English, reading, math and science) in 2012
  – 5% of African Americans
  – 13% of Hispanics

• For all first-time undergraduates, studies have found anywhere from 28 – 40% of students enroll in at least one remedial course.
  – community college only students- several studies have found remediation rates surpassing 50%
Important Facts to Know About Our Students In California:

• By 4th grade,
  – 65% of all students are reading at grade level

More than a third are not…what opportunities have now diminished for these students?

STAR 2013
Important Facts to Know About Our Students in California:

- Algebra I
  - In 8th grade, 50% of students are proficient
  - In 9th Grade, 25% of students are proficient

“70% of students who don’t pass algebra by the 9th grade drop out of high school”

(The California Dropout Research Project, 2008)
Important Facts to Know About Our Students In California:

- CAHSEE passages rate
  - In ELA: Only 83% students pass the test
    - Special Education 40%
    - ELs 42%
  - In Math: Only 84% students pass the test
    - Special Education 42%
    - ELs 54%

Dataquest 2013
Higher Education

- A “four-year” college degree now takes 5-6 years
- Less than a third of the community college students earn an AA degree, a vocational certificate or transferred to a UC or CSU campus.
- Nearly 30% of college students who took out loans dropped out of school (Education Sector, USA Today)
By 8th grade, US students scored below international average in mathematics. By 12th grade, US students performed significantly lower than the international average in both science, mathematics, even among our most advanced students.
What do these stats have to do with the Common Core?

How do we get from here...

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness

...to here?

All students leave high school college and career ready
Career Ready

- Do we really expect students to be prepared to enter the work force upon graduation from high school?
  - career ready requires higher skills
  - Avg. reading level for technical manuals are higher than the reading level for managers
  - Soft skills and abilities
  - 91% of Millennials (born between 1977-1997) stay in a job for less than 3 years
    (16 job changes)
Common Core and College/Career Readiness

Core Academics
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Languages
- Visual & Performing Arts

Careers
- Cross-Disciplinary
- Systems Understanding
- Strategic Planning
- Technological Literacy
- Communications Ethics

Industry Practices
- Employability
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Safety
- Technical Skills
So why does this matter?
• too few graduates are well-prepared for life after high school

• our economy needs students that are college- and career-ready, and internationally-benchmarked

• imperative that ALL American students are prepared for the opportunities and challenges in a competitive world economy
YOU JUST HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD!

This is why the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) are leading this initiative.
Why Change?

- Do we really need Common Core?
- If it ain’t broke,….
- Why is there so much debate?

Don’t be afraid to try something new, especially if what we are doing isn’t working for students!

Time is of the essence!
Just remember

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present.

~ Unknown

Focus on what matters & remember…
It begins and ends with you

• What learning or aha occurred for me today?

• What do I feel needs to be addressed to see Common Core implemented the way it was intended at my site?

• What can I do to improve CCSS implementation for my students?
Common is truly a worthy goal...if ALL means all

ALL our students are Diamonds in the rough...just waiting for someone who is a PASSIONATE believer in them to change their future forever!