

# Press Release

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Request for comments on the first draft of English Language Arts and Mathematics Content Standards

Bismarck, ND. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction has announced the release of the first drafts of two state content standards documents, which are based on the recently released national Common Core State Standards developed by a national consortium of education stakeholders, including most states. The Department of Public Instruction makes these first-draft documents available to the general public for a period of comment, extending through November 15, 2010.

These two content standards documents are located at the following websites:

- (1) the *North Dakota English Language Arts Common Core Standards*  
([http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/content/ELA/ELA\\_draft.docx](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/content/ELA/ELA_draft.docx)) and
- (2) the *North Dakota Mathematics Common Core Standards*  
([http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/content/math/math\\_draft.docx](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/content/math/math_draft.docx)).

The Department of Public Instruction has developed a survey tool that will allow the reporting of all public comments. These comments will aid the writing committees to improve the two content standards documents. Individuals can access the survey tool at the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R2S8YZT>

This past summer, committees of educators from across the state participated in drafting the next generation of content standards in English language arts and mathematics, based on the Common Core State Standards. This development process was facilitated by Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL), a nationally recognized technical assistance center experienced with content standards development. With the release of the first drafts of these two separate content standards documents, a critical point in the development process has been reached, where the overall documents require the review and comment from educators and the public through an open, statewide process.

The drafting committees seek any and all comments regarding the breadth, depth, balance, and integrity of these two content standards documents. Please distribute this request for comments among all local educators and interested parties. We request that you submit your online comments prior to November 15, 2010, in advance of the next drafting committee meeting.

*A brief overview*

On June 2, 2010, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers released the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics. These Common Core State Standards represent a nationwide effort to define consistent, rigorous college- and career-ready content standards for students in grades kindergarten through high school. To learn more about the Common Core State Standards efforts, please refer to the following website:

[http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/common\\_core.shtm](http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/common_core.shtm).

Following the release of the national Common Core State Standards, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction commissioned a comparative study that analyzed the differences and similarities between the current North Dakota State Content Standards and the national Common Core State Standards. This comparative study, conducted by McREL, adopted a study model that analyzed comparability from the North Dakota state standards perspective to the Common Core State Standards perspective and then vice versa. Each manner of review produces slightly different and

revealing comparisons. This study produced four distinct documents, which are provided at the following website: <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/comparison.shtm>.

On September 21, 2010, the Department of Public Instruction released the first drafts of the proposed English language arts and mathematics state content standards for public comment. Following the public reporting period on or about November 15, 2010, the writing committees will consider and incorporate these public comments as they write the second draft of the proposed content standards for a second round of public comments in January 2011. The Department of Public Instruction anticipates that a third, and perhaps final, draft of the proposed content standards will be completed by April 2011.

The State Superintendent will review, consider, and adopt any final English language arts and mathematics state content standards, as specified in state statute.

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