

# Background Paper – Common Core State Standards (aka College and Career Readiness Standards by DoD)

DoD News, February 23, 2018

Service Secretaries say quality of schools ... should be considered in future basing decisions.<sup>1</sup>

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Service secretaries say quality of schools, reciprocity of licenses should be considered in future basing decisions

A letter signed by all three military service secretaries outlining ways state leadership can better support service members was sent to the National Governors Association on Friday, Feb. 23.

The **letter encouraged state leadership to look at the quality of schools near bases** and if reciprocity of professional licenses is available for military families.

A copy of the full letter, signed by Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer, and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson can be found below:

<https://media.defense.gov/2018/Feb/23/2001881660/-1/-1/1/Military-Family-School-Consideration-and-Professional-Licensure-Reciprocity.PDF>

### (BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER)

Dear Governors Sandoval, Bullock, and members of the National Governors Association,

Thank you for your support of our men and women in the military. We are often asked what communities can do to support those who serve. While focus on the mission is always our priority, the *factors military families cite most frequently as drawbacks to military service include military dependent's difficulty assimilating into local school systems following a duty station transfer, the quality of schools available for their children, and the ability of spouses to obtain jobs and sustain careers.* With that in mind, we will *encourage leadership to consider the quality of schools near bases* and whether reciprocity of professional licenses is available for military families when evaluating future basing or mission alternatives.

Military families relocate frequently. The services endeavor to schedule transfers to minimize impact on the academic year, but this is not always possible. As a result, incoming students face difficulties transferring credits between school systems, adjusting to varied curriculum, and joining sports teams or clubs after the start of the school year. Exclusion from extra-curricular activities is particularly challenging for our military children, as they are critical to social development and self-esteem. Some school systems recognize this and accommodate military families during transfers. These schools should be commended and emulated.

Facilitating military spouses in continuing their work in a new place of residence without delays or extra expense is also important. Spouses in professionally licensed fields such as medical, legal, engineering, education, accounting, or the cosmetic arts face challenges due to delays or cost of transferring licenses to a new state or jurisdiction. Eliminating or mitigating these barriers will improve quality of life for our military families, and ease the stress of transferring duty stations with consideration for long-term career implications.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://dod.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/1449706/service-secretaries-say-quality-of-schools-reciprocity-of-licenses-should-be-co/>

We realize improving schools and changing laws or regulations regarding professional licensure will take time. Over the long term, however, *leaders who want to make a difference for the military and our missions will make the most impact if we focus on what matters*. Reciprocity on licensure and **the quality of education matter**.

Thank you for your help and attention. We look forward to continuing to work with you and thank you again for your support of our men and women in the military.

### ASCD “Keeper” of Common Core. (formerly Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development)

<http://www.ascd.org/common-core-state-standards/common-core-state-standards-adoption-map.aspx>

- 45 States territories and the District of Columbia have adopted Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics
- 4 States have not adopted none of the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics – AK, NE, TX and VA
- 1 State has adopted only English standards – MN

### RAND

DoD Adopted Common Core Standards in 2012<sup>2</sup>

### US NEWS

DoD has since modified the basic standards to DoD Education Activity (DoDEA) College and Career Ready Standards which are “essentially a mirror image of the Common Core”<sup>3</sup>

### DoDEA Website

- College and Career Readiness Standards: Literacy<sup>4</sup>

## Standards for English Language Arts

The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (“the standards”) represent the next generation of K - 12 standards designed to prepare all students for success in college, career, and life by the time they graduate from high school.

The Common Core asks students to read stories and literature, as well as more complex texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas such as science and social studies. Students will be challenged and asked questions that push them to refer back to what they’ve read. This stresses

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional\\_papers/OP384.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/OP384.html), 2012

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/special-reports/a-guide-to-common-core/articles/2016-02-10/departments-of-defense-schools-adapt-to-their-version-of-common-core-math>, 2016

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dodea.edu/collegeCareerReady/CCR-2017/ela-standards.cfm> 20

critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are required for success in college, career, and life.

The standards establish guidelines for English language arts (ELA) as well as for literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. Because students must learn to read, write, speak, listen, and use language effectively in a variety of content areas, the standards promote the literacy skills and concepts required for college and career readiness in multiple disciplines.

The College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards form the backbone of the ELA/literacy standards by articulating core knowledge and skills, while grade-specific standards provide additional specificity. Beginning in grade 6, the literacy standards allow teachers of ELA, history/social studies, science, and technical subjects to use their content area expertise to help students meet the particular challenges of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language in their respective fields.

It is important to note that the grade 6 - 12 literacy standards in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects are meant to supplement content standards in those areas, not replace them. States determine how to incorporate these standards into their existing standards for those subjects or adopt them as content area literacy standards.

The skills and knowledge captured in the ELA/literacy standards are designed to prepare students for life outside the classroom. They include critical-thinking skills and the ability to closely and attentively read texts in a way that will help them understand and enjoy complex works of literature. Students will learn to use cogent reasoning and evidence collection skills that are essential for success in college, career, and life. The standards also lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person who is prepared for success in the 21st century.

- Introduction to College and Career Readiness by DoDEA Director Mr. Thomas M. Brady, 2017.<sup>5</sup>
  - Basis for possible quotes and/or talking points:
    - DoDEA has committed to joining the majority of US states or territories and the District of Columbia in implementing a single set of clear educational standards for students in Kindergarten through grade 12.
    - College and Career Ready Standards are designed to prepare young people to compete and succeed in the global economy.
    - Our College and Career Ready Education Programs are backed with a purpose and a promise.
      - The purpose is to empower our students with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to keep pace with their peers throughout the country and the world.
      - The promise of the standards is to provide a consistent, shared and rigorous educational experience for all students.
    - College and Career Ready Standards will be implemented in every subject area in our schools.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.dodea.edu/collegeCareerReady/CCR-2017/>

- Because they have been adopted by nearly every state throughout our nation, these standards remain consistent and accessible to all of our students as they move in and out and within DoDEA.
- DoDEA's top priority for its students is College and Career Readiness. We are committed to this priority and we will support teachers every step of the way.
- College and Career Ready Standards establish clear, consistent and high learning goals and are more focused on preparing students for success in college and careers
- College and Career Ready Standards in the areas of mathematics and literacy set a foundation for even greater student success and growth.
- College and Career Ready Standards set grade-by-grade learning expectations for students in grades K-12.
- The continuity of College and Career Ready Standards presents an extraordinary opportunity for academic development as they are replicated in the majority of states and therefore beneficial to our highly mobile military-connected students.