

# Utah State Board of Education CORE STANDARDS

**FICTION** ▶ Utah taxpayers will have to pay more money to implement the new Utah Core Standards.

## FACT

The Utah State Board of Education regularly updates the Utah Core Standards. The funding for the implementation of this latest set of standards will not cost Utah taxpayers additional money. In fact, funding for the most significant factor required for successful implementation of the new standards—professional development and training for educators—has actually decreased over the past several years. Even with this funding reduction, Utah has become a model for other states for how effectively and efficiently it has introduced educators to the new Utah Core Standards.

## UTAH'S CORE STANDARDS

are aligned to scientifically based content standards. They drive high quality instruction through statewide comprehensive expectations for all students. The standards outline essential knowledge, concepts, and skills to be mastered at each grade level or within a critical content area. The standards provide a foundation for ensuring learning within the classroom.



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LOCALLY DRIVEN  
GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE



# FACT vs. FICTION

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**FICTION** ► Utah adopted nationalized education standards that come with federal strings attached.

## FACT

The Utah Core Standards in language arts and mathematics are based on the Common Core State Standards, a state-led effort to better prepare students to compete in a global economy. The federal government did not participate in the creation of the standards, and they are not federally controlled. Utah parents, educators, and subject-area experts participated in the creation of the Common Core State Standards. They were vetted thoroughly by the Utah State Board of Education and by parents who attended public meetings held across the state. The standards do not tie Utah to any federal programs, grants, or assessment systems, and the Utah State Board of Education is free to change the Utah Core Standards at any time.

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**FICTION** ► Adoption of these new Core Standards threatens the ability of parents, teachers and local school districts to control curriculum.

## FACT

As with previous updates to the Utah Core, parents, teachers and local school boards continue to control the curriculum choices that reflect local values. The Utah Core Standards do not dictate curriculum. The Utah Core Standards set clear, grade-level expectations in math and language arts for students, parents, and teachers.

“ The Common Core State Standards are an example of states recognizing a problem, then working together, sharing what works and what doesn’t.”

**Jeb Bush**, former Governor of Florida, and  
**Joel Klein**, former Chancellor of the  
New York City Public Schools, June 23, 2011

“ From the beginning, we have made clear that whatever we do in public education, we must ensure the preservation of state sovereignty and control over standards, testing, curriculum, or textbooks. Based on input from parents, Utah, not the federal government, will be the final arbiter in determining what is in the best interests of Utah’s children.”

**Governor Gary Herbert**  
April 2012

“ As a former CEO of a Fortune 500 company, I know that common education standards are essential for producing the educated work force America needs to remain globally competitive. Good standards alone are not enough, but without them decisions about such things as curricula, instructional materials and tests are haphazard. It is no wonder that educational quality varies so widely among states.”

**Craig Barrett**, former CEO, Intel Corp.  
April 6, 2010

“ I am convinced the Utah Core Standards in math and language arts are right for Utah students. These standards will better prepare our students for college and to be competitive in the global economy. These standards are in harmony with Utah values. Our challenge now will be ensuring that when Utah’s science and social studies standards are updated, they are as rigorous and faithful to Utah values as the Utah Core Standards in math and language arts.”

**Senator Howard Stephenson**  
April 2012

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**FICTION** ► Political leaders and education experts oppose the Common Core State Standards.

## FACT

Most thoughtful people on this issue have lined up in favor of the Common Core State Standards. The standards are endorsed by a wide range of politicians, educational organizations, research groups, businesses, private foundations and experts in reading and mathematics. Among their champions are school reform leaders like former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, along with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former Intel CEO Craig Barrett.

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**FICTION** ► Utah’s Core Standards lower expectations.

## FACT

The Utah Core Standards were created, like those in 44 other states, to address the problem of low expectations. The standards raise the bar on student performance in language arts and math, making sure all Utah students are globally competitive. The collaboration between states provides continuity for students who move to a new state. With interstate moves on the rise, this benefits both Utah students who move out of state and the new Utah students we welcome into our schools.