

# MICHIGAN LEARNING STANDARDS

## Benefit Michigan Students

### Standards vs. Curriculum

Michigan's schools already have the flexibility to use whatever content standards they want,<sup>1</sup> but even if they choose to follow the model state standards, districts and teachers still have the freedom and responsibility to set curriculum. So what is the difference?

**Standards are the goal** – the knowledge and skills that students are expected to know at each grade level. Standards should remain consistent so students, parents and teachers aren't chasing a moving target.

**Curriculum is the individual path** that each district and teacher set to help students learn the standards. Curriculum may be altered year-to-year, classroom-to-classroom, and student-to-student to respond to individual needs.

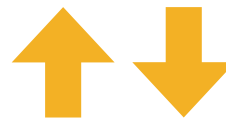


### Dollars and Cents

Transitioning to new state standards comes at a huge cost – both in time and money. Millions of dollars were spent transitioning to Michigan's current standards for our 1,540,000 PK-12 students. Eliminating them and moving to another new set of standards would be essentially the same cost to yet again change curriculum, assessment, materials and provide high-quality professional development.<sup>2</sup>



**The High-End**  
**Statewide cost:**  
\$288,717,317  
**Average cost/student:**  
\$195  
**Estimated cost for a  
4,000-student district:**  
\$778,400



**The Low-End**  
**Statewide cost:**  
\$40,948,602  
**Average cost/student:**  
\$28  
**Estimated cost for a  
4,000-student district:**  
\$110,400

### Michigan Standards Are Career Ready

Much work has been done to align local instruction to Michigan standards, specifically in the area of Career Technical Education (CTE). There are many connections between the skills outline in the Career Ready Practices and the skills required within the Michigan's current content standards.<sup>3</sup>

Michigan's ELA Standards are broader, less restrictive and puts an important emphasis on reading for information.

The state's math standards emphasize problem-solving, reasoning and constructing viable arguments.



# Out With the (Really) Old

It's been proposed to adopt the same academic standards used in Massachusetts during 2008-2009, which were already many years old at that time. Below are those standards' actual adoption and revision dates:<sup>4</sup>

- ELA – 1997/2001/2004\*
- Math – 1996/2000/2004\*
- History/Social Science – 1997/2003
- Science & Technology Engineering – 1996 /2001/2006\*
- Foreign Languages – 1999
- Health – 1996/1999
- Arts – 1996/1999

\*Note: ELA and Math added grade-level standards in 2004 to supplement prior grade-span standards; Science had a minor revision of only HS standards in 2006.



## Even Massachusetts Aligns

Currently forty-two states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) align in some way to the Common Core.<sup>5</sup> Even the first-in-the-nation ranked Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education abandoned its 2008-2009 state standards and adopted new standards based on the Common Core, here's why:



“ A key reason for updating our state standards in 2008-2009 was that **we were getting feedback from our state colleges and universities and from the business sector that too many high school graduates were not fully prepared for college-level work and entry-level jobs.** That led to the decision several years ago to upgrade our already-strong curriculum standards, which we completed in late 2010/early 2011.”

## Aligned Standards Benefit Michigan

**Clear and Consistent Expectations.** The current standards provide a clear understanding of what students are expected to learn at every grade level. Outcomes improve when students, parents, and teachers are on the same page working together toward shared goals.

**Resources to Schools.** Common standards allow collaboration. By having standards that are similar to other states, far more high-quality materials, best practices and supports are available at a lower cost. Additionally, the pool of available expertise grows considerably as teachers work together and share resources.

**College, Career and Real-World Readiness.** The standards are designed to ensure that all students graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college and careers, which helps build a stronger Michigan economy.



1. MCL 380.1278

2. Murphy, P., & Regenstein, E. (May 2012). Putting a Price Tag on the Common Core: How Much Will Smart Implementation Cost? The Fordham Institute.

3. Advance CTE. The Career Ready Practices and The Common Core State Standards. [careertech.org/cctc](http://careertech.org/cctc)

4. Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (September 25, 2015). History of Learning Standards in Massachusetts. [doe.mass.edu](http://doe.mass.edu)

5. Keenan, L. (2016, April 20). 2009 Curriculum standards [E-mail].

6. Common Core State Standards Initiative. Standards in Your State. [corestandards.org/standards-in-your-state](http://corestandards.org/standards-in-your-state)