

BUSINESS SIGN-ON LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

As companies and business organizations, we believe that it is imperative that ALL American students have access to an education that will prepare them for the opportunities and challenges they will face after high school. In a competitive world economy where education and/or training after high school is increasingly the norm for access to good jobs, to prepare students for anything less is, by definition, to deny opportunity.

Unfortunately, today, too few high school students graduate and, among those who do, too few graduate well-prepared for life after high school. In order to prepare today's students for the challenging world they will encounter, it is critical that we set the right expectations. For this reason, we believe states need to have K-12 standards that will prepare all students by the end of high school for success in college and careers.

Currently, each state sets its own standards. This has led to a nation with 50 sets of inconsistent standards, even though the expectations of colleges and employers in math and English are nearly universal and are not bound by state lines.

We believe that the Common Core State Standards Initiative, led by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers, has produced K-12 standards in the foundational subjects of math and English that meet the business community's expectations: they are college- and career-ready, grounded in evidence and internationally-benchmarked. We, the undersigned companies and organizations, support the adoption of the Common Core State Standards by the states.

The Common Core State Standards are an important opportunity to set consistent, focused, rigorous expectations for all students; a necessary foundation for making the changes needed to improve student achievement and ensure the United States' educational and economic preeminence.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS (BY ORGANIZATION NAME, ALPHABETICALLY)

Accenture	Business-Higher Education Forum
ACT, Inc.	Business Roundtable
AdvanceED	Dell Inc.
Advance Illinois	Eastman Chemical Company
Aetna	Eastman Kodak Company
Association of American Publishers	Evans Newton Incorporated
BAE Systems	Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Battelle	Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education
Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, Inc.	GlaxoSmithKline
The Boeing Company	Greater Oklahoma City Chamber
Business Coalition for Student Achievement	Greater Phoenix Leadership
The Business Coalition for Educational Excellence at the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce	Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.	Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Greenville, SC
	Harper Industries, Inc.

Hawaii Business Roundtable
IBM Corporation
Illinois Business Roundtable
Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
ING
Intel Corporation
Jacksonville Regional Chamber of
Commerce
Knoxville Chamber
Laurinburg/Scotland County Area Chamber,
Laurinburg, NC
MetaMetrics
Microsoft
Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Manufacturers
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Nevada Manufacturers Association, Carson
City, Nevada
New Mexico Business Roundtable
Ohio Business Roundtable
Partnership for 21st Century Skills

Partnership for New York City
Pennsylvania Business Council
Qualprint
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce,
Rochester, Minnesota
Rockwell Automation
Rockwell Collins
Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona
SAS Institute, Inc.
Software & Information Industry
Association
State Farm Insurance
Tennessee Business Roundtable
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce &
Industry
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Verizon Communications, Inc.
Wireless Generation
Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN)
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber