



The Curriculum Improvement Institute is pleased to provide our members with the following research briefing.

PUBLICATION

"Common Standards: The Time Is Now"

AUTHOR

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RESEARCH FOCUS

Providing support for national standards and why a common core of standards can improve teaching and reduce costs.

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The author looks at the reasons for a common core set of standards and how they can keep the United States more competitive, improve preparation for postsecondary education, and why the current system of state standards is not sufficient.

KEY FINDINGS

- The United States is no longer a leader in high school or college completion.
- Students in the U.S. rank below other industrialized nations in their ability to apply real-world problems, mathematics literacy, science literacy, and problem solving.
- The mobility of our citizens requires a system of equity.
- Over \$500 million is spent every year to develop, publish, administer, score, and report tests.
- The National Council on Education Standards and Testing called for national standards in 1992 but has had little effect on consensus building.
- The fifty-state solution has led to a variation in expectations in the content students are taught, the quality of standards, proficiency levels, and college readiness.
- Standards must be a part of a system that includes assessments, accountability systems, curriculum and materials aligned to standards, and support for teachers.

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To request a copy of this research, "Threat Rigidity, School Reform, and How Teachers View Their Work Inside Current Education Policy Contexts" email Research@curriculuminstitute.org
