

ON COMMON CORE STANDARDS – SOUNDING BOARD SAYS...

This is a summary of data collected from 79 National Board Certified teachers who are part of Sounding Board and responded to a survey about the Common Core Standards.

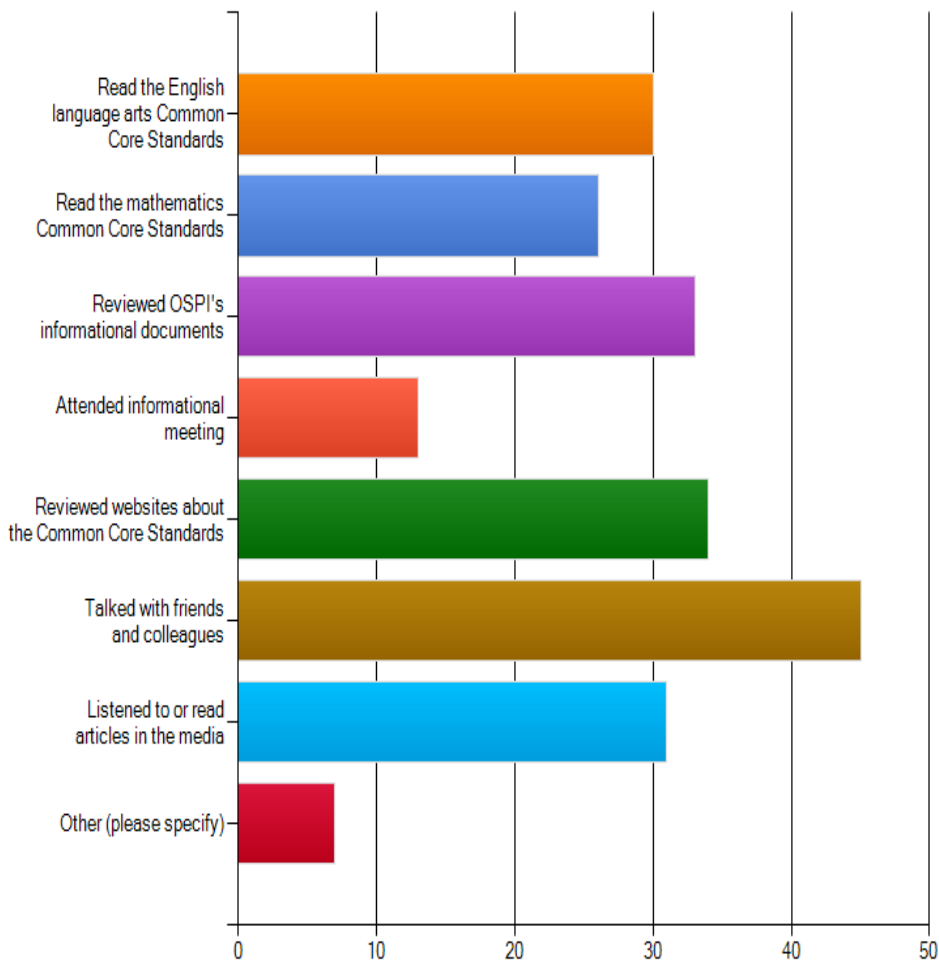
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The survey respondents identified themselves as...

- Mostly high school (51%) and elementary teachers (27%); some middle school teachers (18%)
- Predominately teachers of English language arts and/or mathematics (52%)

How did you learn about the Common Core State Standards?

Teacher respondents learned about the Common Core Standards in a variety of ways from talking with their friends and colleagues (58%) to reading and viewing information on websites and from OSPI.



CSTP created Sounding Board as an avenue to amplify the voices of accomplished teachers. Participants are Washington State National Board Certified Teachers who regularly provide their perspective on relevant and critical education issues or policy implementation questions.

Sounding Board teachers respond to short surveys. Their responses are thematically organized, summarized and communicated to decision-makers, posted on CSTP's website and used in other materials.

Center for Strengthening
the Teaching Profession

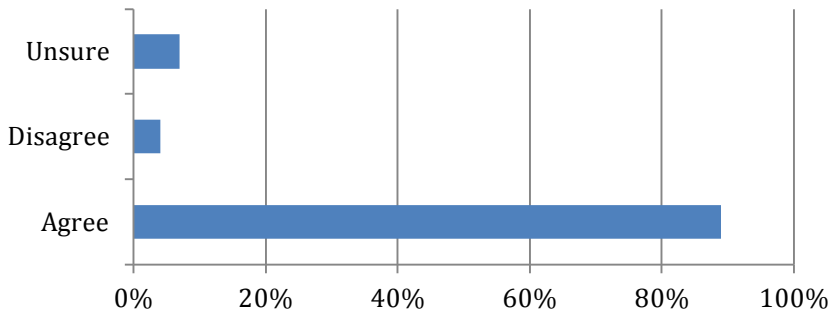
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OSPI's website provides a list of benefits for adopting the Common Core Standards. Select whether you agree, disagree or are unsure about each benefit.

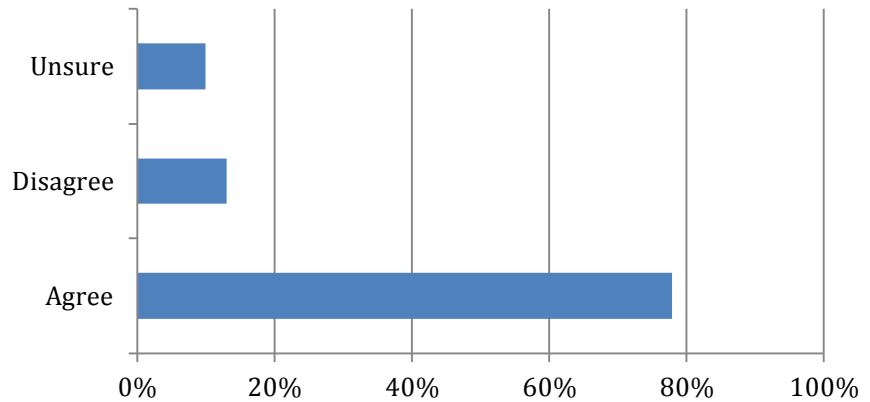
OSPI Benefit: Establish a clear set of expectations for every teacher and student.



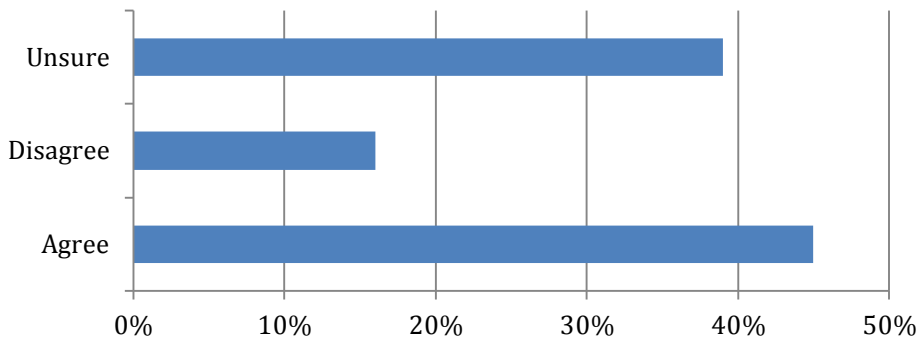
Most teacher respondents (89%) agree that the Common Core Standards establish a clear set of expectations for teachers and students.

OSPI Benefit: Make it easier for students who move from school-to-school and state-to-state to make a seamless transition, and remain confident that their K-12 education leads to college, skills training or the workplace.

Most teacher respondents (78%) agree that Common Core Standards make it easier for students who move from school-to-school and state-to-state to make a seamless transition, and remain confident that their K-12 education leads to college, skills training or the workplace.



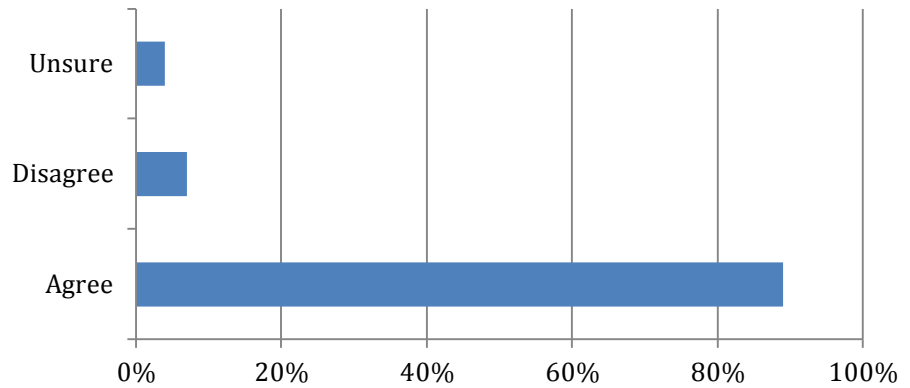
OSPI Benefit: Boost the competitive advantage of American students, who for the first time will have the opportunity to meet the academic standards set by top-performing countries.



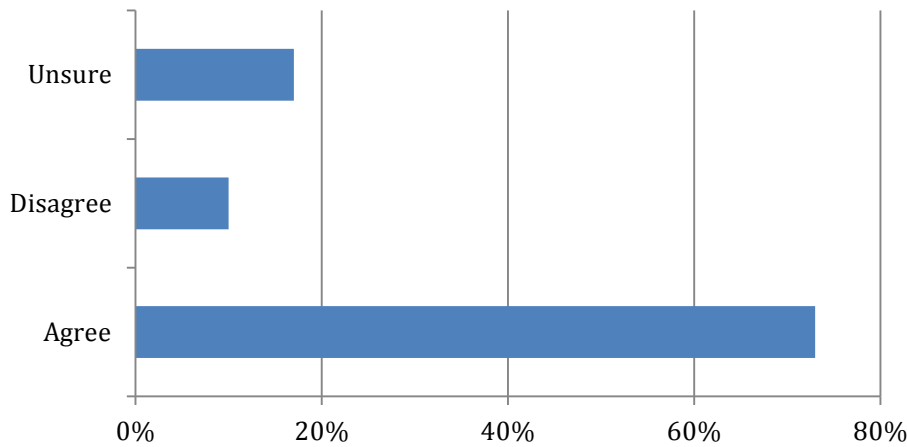
Teacher respondents felt mixed about whether the Common Core Standards boost the competitive advantage of American students. 45% agreed while 39% were unsure.

OSPI Benefit: Create goals for every grade, which are consistent and transparent to parents, students, teachers and the public.

Teacher respondents agreed (89%) that the Common Core Standards create goals for every grade, which are consistent and transparent to parents, students, teachers and the public.



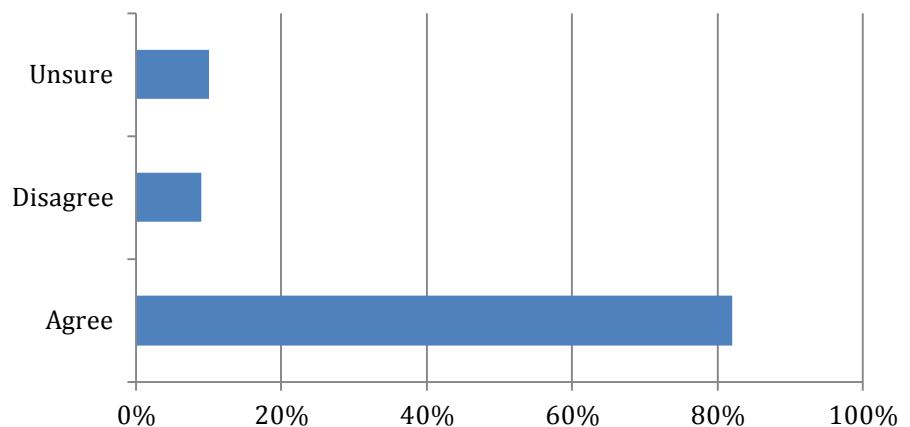
OSPI Benefit: Make it possible for educators to work collaboratively — coast to coast — as they adapt and enrich common standards with learning activities and new best practices.



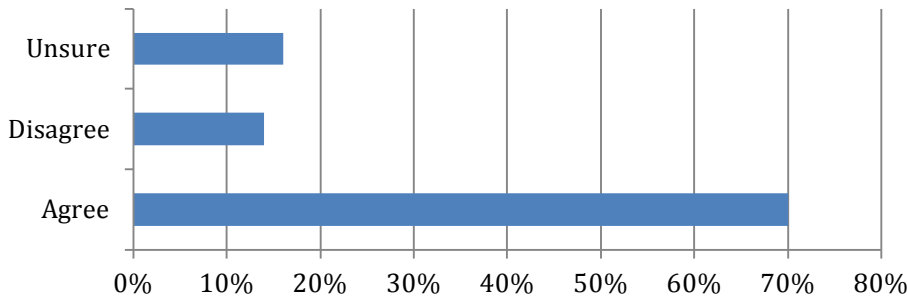
Teacher respondents agree (73%) that the Common Core Standards make it possible for educators to work collaboratively — coast to coast — as they adapt and enrich common standards with learning activities and new best practices.

OSPI Benefit: Encourage publishers and educational developers to align textbooks, digital media and instructional materials to common standards.

Most teacher respondents agree (82%) that the Common Core Standards encourage publishers and educational developers to align textbooks, digital media and instructional materials to common standards.



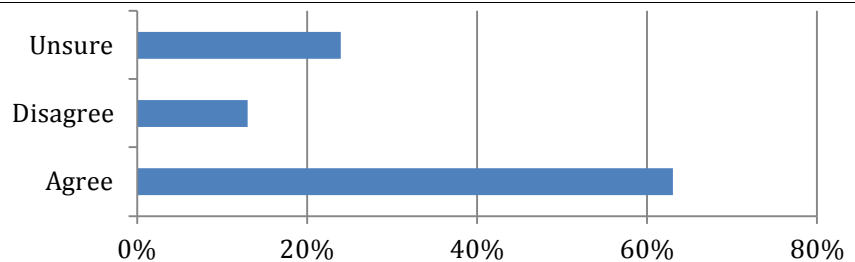
OSPI Benefit: Support the development of a unified, comprehensive and consistent assessment system.



70% of teacher respondents agree that the Common Core Standards support the development of a unified, comprehensive and consistent assessment system.

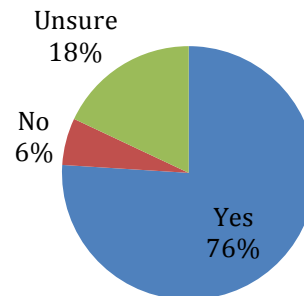
OSPI Benefit: Prompt policy changes necessary to support students and teachers as they meet the teaching and learning goals of the common standards.

Over half of teacher respondents agreed (63%) the Common Core Standards prompt policy changes necessary to support students and teachers towards teaching and learning goals.



Authorized by the state legislature, OSPI “provisionally” adopted the Common Core State Standards becoming one of 48 states to do so. Given what you’ve read and heard about the Common Core Standards, do you agree that the state should move in this direction?

About three quarters of teacher respondents (76%) agree the state should move forward with Common Core Standards.



What else did they say?

- I believe that national standards have the potential to lead public education in the right direction however I also worry that federally mandated standards removes district and state controls.
- In effect, this will take much of the financial responsibility of curricula update and coordination away from the state.
- Blazing this trail will not be easy however we have one of the nation's highest percentages of nationally certified teachers to lead the way.

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS: About 18% of teacher respondents feel additional state standards are needed in English language arts, and about 11% of teacher respondents feel additional state standards are needed in mathematics.

Here are additional standards they would add –

- Additional emphasis on career & college research
- Additional emphasis on the use of various forms of technology to present their written work and/or research
- Additional emphasis on public speaking skills regardless of career path
- Additional information on literacy skills, and visual and dramatic arts illiteracies.
- Standards for writing.

Other comments –

- It's not so much adding standards as much as the detail that needs adding. One characteristic of our state math standards was their clarity. I don't feel the CCSS have that same level of clarity.
- I would not necessarily add more, I would better define within each standard what the standard would look like within the classroom. I would include increased levels of specificity within the reading portions. Much of this is already included in our current state standards and could be bulleted under the common core standards.

ASSESSING ADDITIONAL STANDARDS: If states add more standards, they are responsible to fund the development and assessment of their unique standards.

Here are some ways teacher respondents would assess additional standards.

- Standardized multiple choice questions about comprehension that can be computer scored
 - Student portfolios
 - End-of-media literacy unit assessment
 - Teacher observation, student interviews
- Improve and connect to Classroom-Based Assessments

If the Common Core Standards are adopted, teachers will need professional development, instructional materials and other resources to prepare for these changes. How vital would these supports be to you?

More than half of teacher respondents (66%) feel that if the Common Core Standards are adopted, they will need professional development, instructional materials and other resources to prepare for these changes.

