



# CHOOSE EXCELLENCE CommonCoreMS

## Why Mississippi First Supports Common Core State Standards

**We believe our education system and its success or failure is Mississippi's responsibility.** Common Core creates benchmarks for teachers and school districts that outline grade-by-grade what children should know and be able to do. Common Core gives local school districts the responsibility to decide what curriculum to adopt and enables classroom teachers to choose how to teach the standards. Mississippi educators are free to select books and materials and write their own lesson plans which can pull from our rich, vibrant cultural heritage to provide opportunities for students to think critically.

**We must ensure every Mississippi child has access to the educational excellence necessary to outpace the competition.** A great educational system is built on high standards. Our students will rise to the level of excellence-or mediocrity-that we expect. Setting our sights too low through low educational standards only guarantees that our students will underperform and that Mississippi's economy will falter. A successful Mississippi is one where we work together, business and education, to create a better tomorrow for our children by choosing high standards and equipping our students with the tools necessary to reach them.

**We are confident Mississippi's new college- and career-ready standards describe what our students need to know and be able to do to be successful in our new economy.** As Mississippi continues to compete for new and innovative industries, our graduates must have an education that matches employer needs. Common Core gives our students a clear, high bar to cross to prove their readiness for further education and training and their value to future employers. Students who master the Common Core by graduation can be confident they have the skills to successfully complete a technical certification or a two- or four-year degree.

If you are interested in signing onto the Choose Excellence campaign to support Common Core in Mississippi, contact us at [commoncore@mississippifirst.org](mailto:commoncore@mississippifirst.org).