

# POSITION STATEMENT

## Common Academic Standards

NAESP is pleased to support a process to develop common core standards of learning in mathematics and English-language arts for the nation's K-12 public schools, and we salute the 49 states and territories that have endorsed this important initiative, which holds great promise for achieving sustainable improvement for every school in America. We applaud the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers for spearheading this work.

Among the noteworthy precepts of this evolving process is that common standards will be research- and evidence-based and state-led, thus ensuring that the voices of local educators—those on the front lines of teaching and learning—will be heard. Elementary and middle-level school principals are the primary catalysts for driving school and student achievement and for guiding the long-term impact of school improvement efforts. As such, they are ideally suited to make substantive contributions to this process. Further, this process should be informed by NAESP's *Leading Learning Communities*, the gold standard for identifying **core leading standards** for principals who create and nurture **core learning standards** for their schools on a daily basis.

In addition, NAESP's 50 state affiliates—our partners in serving and supporting elementary and middle-level principals—are well-positioned to interact with state education agencies and officials to ensure that all common standards are fully resourced and acknowledge the unique needs, circumstances, and autonomy of every participating state.

“NAESP is committed to supporting elementary and middle-level school principals as effective educators and leaders who have the central responsibility for student achievement. No other school leaders are as well prepared to engage in the establishment of common academic standards,” said NAESP Executive Director Gail Connelly. “On our members’ behalf, we strongly recommend that the NGA, CCSSO, and working committees charged with coordinating the process seek the counsel and expertise of practicing elementary and middle-level principals—those who are accountable for ensuring every child has access to a high-quality education.”

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals serves 28,000 elementary and middle school principals in the United States, Canada, and overseas. NAESP leads in the advocacy and support for elementary and middle-level principals and other education leaders in their commitment to all children.