

# Understanding the Common Core State Standards and their Role in Catholic Education

By Annemarie Fisher, Department of Education

Advised by Dr. Jackie Arnold

## What is Common Core?

- Set of academic standards
- 44 states adopted
- ELA & Math
- Created by National Governors Association for Best Practices & Council of Chief State School Officers
- Process begun in 2009



## What's different about Common Core?

- Unites country
- Common assessment tool
- Goal: college and career readiness
- 3 main shifts in approaches to education
  - Content-rich nonfiction
  - Evidence-based writing
  - Text complexity

## What does Common Core mean for Catholic education?

- Private schools not dictated by states
- BUT many dioceses have adopted standards
- NCEA issued statement in support
- Creation of Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative
- Opposition: Letter from professors to USCCB

## How are schools implementing Common Core?

- Focus on professional development
- College and school collaboration
- Focus on content taught and methods used
- Opportunities for active learning
- Collective participation
- Horizontal and vertical alignment

## Resources include...

- McLaughlin, M., & Overturf, B. J. (2012). The common core: Insights into the K-5 standards. *Reading Teacher*, 66(2), 153-164. doi:10.1002/TRTR.01115
- Ozar, L. A. (2012). National catholic school standards: An accountable vision of catholic schools for our times. *Journal of Catholic School Studies*, 84(2), 6-12.