Analysis of the Florida Common Core Standards Public Input Period

Submitted to

The Florida Department of Education

By

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INTRODUCTION

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter either credit-bearing courses at two- or four-year institutions of higher learning or enter the work force. These standards are aimed to prepare students to collaborate with their peers and compete in a global economy. Currently, 45 states have voluntarily adopted the CCSS for both English and Mathematics in an effort to provide a consistent education to all students, regardless of their location. Florida's State Board of Education voted in 2010 to adopt the CCSS and approved a four-phase implementation plan beginning in the 2011-2012 school year. Full implementation of the CCSS in grades K-12 will occur during the 2014-2015 school year.

In response to public concerns about these standards, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) in the Fall of 2013 opened three channels for the public to provide input to policy makers. First, three public meetings were held throughout the state at which attendees had the opportunity to communicate support for the standards as well as concerns about the standards. Second, a website was posted that presented information about the new standards, links to the proposed standards, transcripts of the public meetings, and other resources. A form was provided on the website for public input. Third, an email address was created for individuals to send their comments directly to the FDOE.

The purpose of this report is to present an organized summary of these public comments.

The research team consisted of four persons, including three who hold advanced degrees in education. Three persons conducted the initial coding; the fourth person contributed to resolving coding inconsistencies and in "collapsing" codes.[1] Information in the web data set was precoded before the research team received it, e.g., the standard number to which a comment applied was identified. There was no mechanism for precoding the live comments in public forums or free-form email comments.

The following data were provided to the coding team: transcripts of the three public meetings that contained 922 comments from 115 constituents (after coding), an electronic file containing 1,678 comments submitted by email from 683 constituents; an electronic file containing 19,422 comments submitted on the website by 1681 constituents.

The median number of web responses per constituent was 4, although there were twice as many comments per constituent on ELA standards than on math (see Table 1).

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[1] We use the words "codes" and "categories" interchangeably in this report.

The approach taken by the coding team included the following principles:
- <u>All comments were reviewed and coded</u>; i.e., a we did not draw a subsample of the data
- The analysis is intended to be "lossless," i.e., <u>all comments are retrievable</u> by code number; no information has been lost in the data compilation process
- A few web respondents commented on a large number of standards, using cut-and-paste techniques to offer the identical comment to hundreds of standards. Although this may appear to be "stuffing the ballot box," <u>these cases were not excluded</u>: the wide distribution of multiple comments per respondent begged the question of where to draw a cut-off point, and would violate the principle of including all comments.

Table 1						
Number of web comments per constituent						
	Mean	**Median**	Mode	SD	Min	Max	N
English/Language Arts	21.5	6	1	55.0	1	574	603
Math	13.8	3	1	37.8	1	393	280
Total	19.1	4	1	50.3	1	574	883

There are four sections to the report
1. Analysis of comments from the public meetings (pdf)
2. Analysis of email comments (pdf)
3. Analysis of comments on the website (pdf)
4. Recommendations for changes to statutes ((MS-Excel)
   These are compilations of all the recommendations offered by constituents presented in separate excel files for each type of input (public forum, web, and email). All of the excel files are organized by subject (ELA or math). Web responses were further organized by grade and standard, so that content area experts can tab to a grade, and review comments organized by standard within each grade tab. This way, the experts can see <u>all verbatim comments</u> that constituents offered in the way of recommended changes.

I.   **Number of constituents who took part in the process**
      This section presents the total number of constituents who offered input on the Florida
      Common Core standards at public forums, through the web, or via email.

Table 2 Numbers of constituents and comments			
	Constituents	Comments	Comments/ constituent
Public forums	115	922	8.0
Web comments	883	16822	19.1
Emails	683	1678	2.5
Total	**1681**	**19422**	**11.6**

II.   **Analysis of comments from public forums**
      a. **This section presents comments made at three public forums that are general in
          nature and would not result in change to a specific standard.**
              i. Number and percent that are supportive
              ii. Number and percent that are non-supportive
              iii. Number and percent that address issues other than the standards

Table 3 General comments about Common Core standards		
	N	Percent
Supportive of Common Core	189	23.6
Not supportive of Common Core	220	27.5
Other	392	48.9
Total	**801**	**100.0**

Figure 1
General public forum comments about
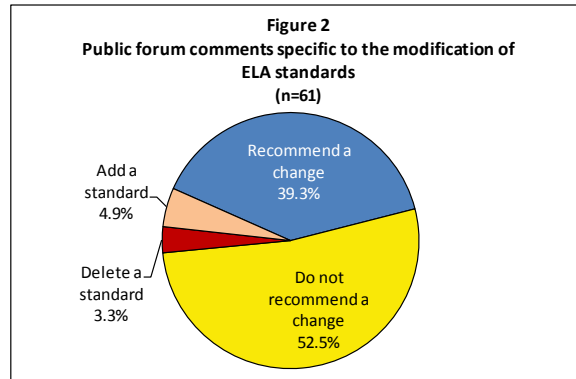Common Core standards
(n=801)
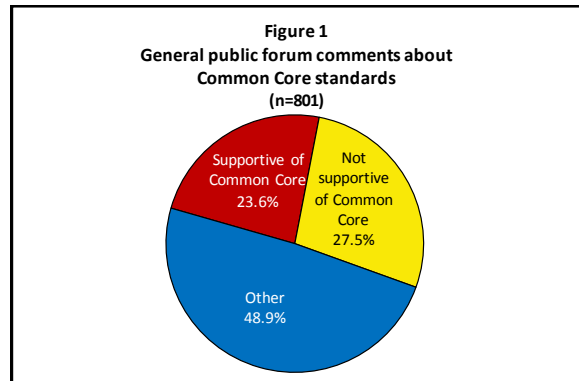
II.   **Analysis of comments from public forums**

b. **This section presents comments made at three public forums that are specific to the English/language arts (ELA) standards.**

    i.   Number and percent that recommend change to a standard
    ii. Number and percent that do not recommend change to a standard
    iii. Number and percent that recommend deletion of a standard
    iv. Number and percent that recommend addition of a standard

Table 4 Comments specific to ELA standards	N	Percent
Recommend a change	24	39.3
Do not recommend a change	32	52.5
Delete a standard	2	3.3
Add a standard	3	4.9
Total	**61**	**100.0**

Figure 2
Public forum comments specific to the modification of
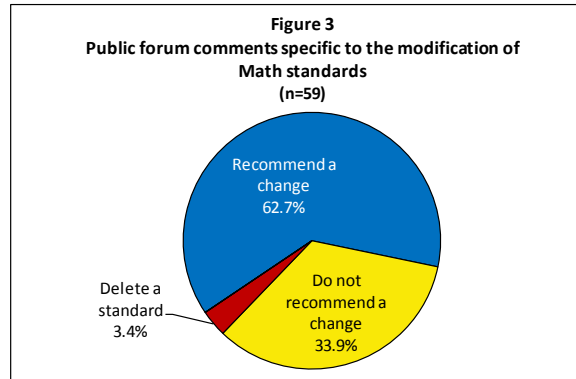ELA standards
(n=61)

II.   Analysis of comments from public forums

   c.   This section presents comments made at three public forums that are specific to the math standards.

      i. Number and percent that recommend change to a standard

     ii. Number and percent that do not recommend change to a standard

    iii. Number and percent that recommend deletion of a standard

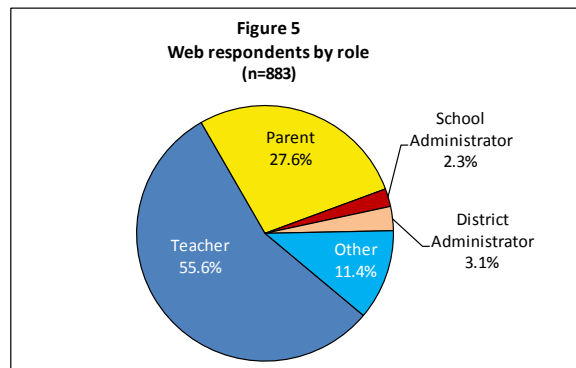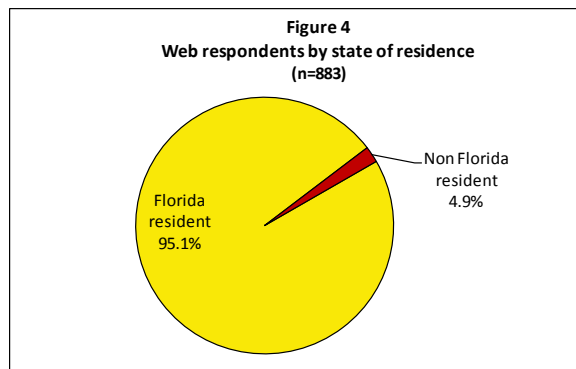   iv. Number and percent that recommend addition of a standard

Table 5 Comments specific to Math standards	N	Percent
Recommend a change	37	62.7
Do not recommend a change	20	33.9
Delete a standard	2	3.4
Add a standard	0	0.0
Total	**59**	**100.0**

Figure 3
Public forum comments specific to the modification of Math standards
(n=59)

Recommend a change 62.7%

Do not recommend a change 33.9%

Delete a standard 3.4%

III.   Analysis of comments from web-based system

    a.   This section presents comments by two categories of constituent: state of residence and role (relationship to the public school system).

Table 6 Web respondents by category		
	N	**Percent**
Florida resident	865	98.0
Non Florida resident	18	2.0
Total	**883**	**100**
Teacher	491	55.6
Parent	244	27.6
School Administrator	20	2.3
District Administrator	27	3.1
Other	101	11.4
Total	**883**	**100.0**

**Figure 4
Web respondents by state of residence
(n=883)**

Non Florida resident 4.9%

Florida resident 95.1%

**Figure 5
Web respondents by role
(n=883)**

Parent 27.6%

School Administrator 2.3%

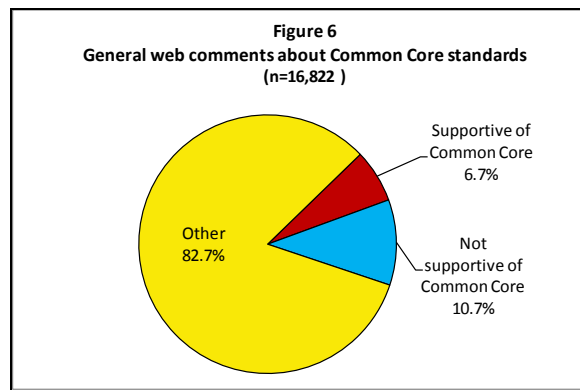District Administrator 3.1%

Teacher 55.6%

Other 11.4%

III.   Analysis of comments from web-based system

b.   This section presents comments through the web-based system that are general in nature and would not result in change to a specific standard.

   i.   Number and percent that are supportive

   ii.   Number and percent that are non-supportive

   iii.   Number and percent that address issues other than the standards

Table 7 General comments about Common Core standards		
	N	**Percent**
Supportive of Common Core	1120	6.7
Not supportive of Common Core	1798	10.7
Other	13904	82.7
Total	**16822**	**100.0**

Figure 6
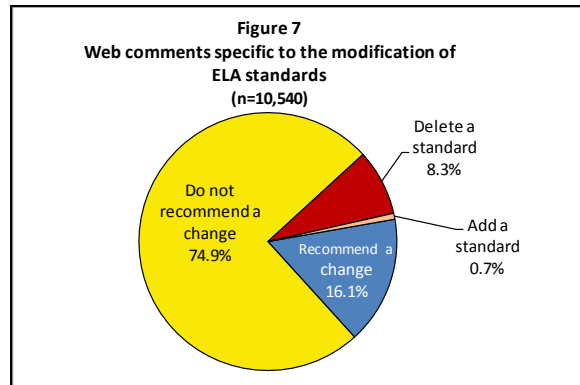**General web comments about Common Core standards**
(n=16,822)

III.   Analysis of comments from web-based system

c.   This section presents comments through the web-based system that are specific to the English/language arts standards.

  i.   Number and percent that recommend change to a standard

  ii. Number and percent that do not recommend change to a standard

  iii. Number and percent that recommend deletion of a standard

  iv. Number and percent that recommend addition of a standard

Table 8 Comments specific to ELA standards		
	N	**Percent**
Recommend a change	1692	16.1
Do not recommend a change	7897	74.9
Delete a standard	872	8.3
Add a standard	79	0.7
Total	**10540**	**100.0**

Figure 7
Web comments specific to the modification of
ELA standards
(n=10,540)

III.   Analysis of comments from web-based system

    d. This section presents comments through the web-based system that are specific to the math standards.

       i.   Number and percent that recommend change to a standard

      ii.   Number and percent that do not recommend change to a standard

     iii.   Number and percent that recommend deletion of a standard

     iv.   Number and percent that recommend addition of a standard

Table 9 Comments specific to Math standards		
	N	**Percent**
Recommend a change	852	25.0
Do not recommend a change	2063	60.6
Delete a standard	440	12.9
Add a standard	50	1.5
Total	**3405**	**100.0**

Figure 8
Web comments specific to the modification of
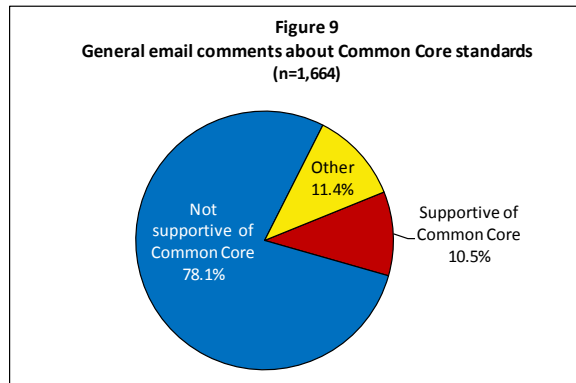Math standards
(n=3,405)
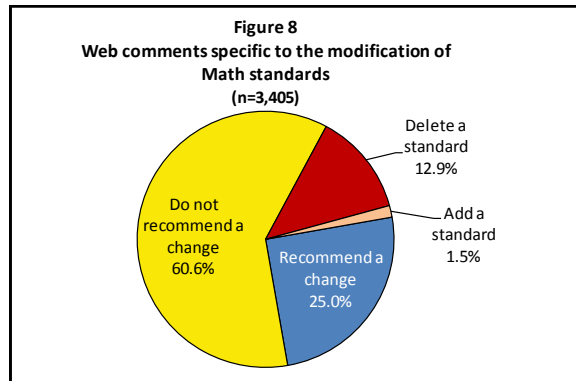
IV.   Analysis of comments submitted via email

a. This section presents comments submitted via email that are general in nature and would not result in change to a specific standard.

      i.   Number and percent that are supportive

     ii.   Number and percent that are non-supportive

   iii.   Number and percent that address issues other than the standards

Table 10 General comments about Common Core standards		
	N	**Percent**
Supportive of Common Core	175	10.5
Not supportive of Common Core	1299	78.1
Other	190	11.4
Total	**1664**	**100.0**

Figure 9
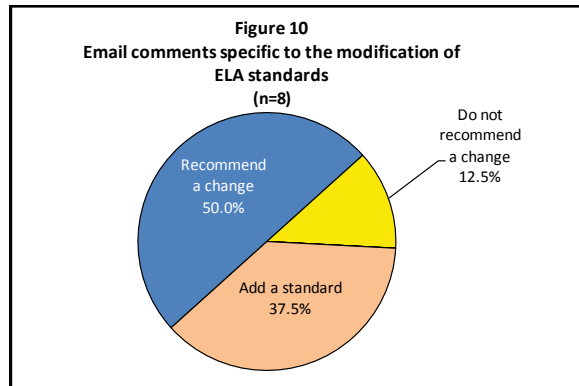General email comments about Common Core standards
(n=1,664)

IV.   Analysis of comments submitted via email

b.   This section presents comments submitted via email that are specific to the English/language arts standards.

   i.   Number and percent that recommend change to a standard

   ii.   Number and percent that do not recommend change to a standard

   iii.   Number and percent that recommend deletion of a standard

   iv.   Number and percent that recommend addition of a standard

Table 11 Comments specific to ELA standards		
	N	Percent
Recommend a change	4	50.0
Do not recommend a change	1	12.5
Delete a standard	0	0.0
Add a standard	3	37.5
Total	8	100.0

Figure 10
Email comments specific to the modification of
ELA standards
(n=8)

IV. **Analysis of comments submitted via email**
   c. **This section presents comments submitted via email that are specific to the math standards.**
      i. Number and percent that recommend change to a standard
      ii. Number and percent that do not recommend change to a standard
      iii. Number and percent that recommend deletion of a standard
      iv. Number and percent that recommend addition of a standard

Table 12 Comments specific to Math standards	N	Percent
Recommend a change	5	83.3
Do not recommend a change	1	16.7
Delete a standard	0	0.0
Add a standard	0	0.0
Total	**6**	**100.0**

Figure 11
Web comments specific to the modification of Math standards
(n=6)