



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

May 28, 2009

Mr. Ray Scheppach
Executive Director
National Governors Association
Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001-1512

Mr. Gene Wilhoit
Executive Director
Council of Chief State School Officers
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001-1431

Dear Mr. Scheppach and Mr. Wilhoit,

California is pleased to participate in the CCSSO-NGA initiative to develop common core standards. In particular, we welcome the opportunity to participate in the international benchmarking efforts. This benchmarking will be important for our nation and helpful in California's efforts to prepare all students to succeed in the global economy.

As a high-standards state, we have specific issues to bring forward with regard to our participation:


- A) As highlighted by the Fordham Institute, American Federation of Teachers and others, California has some of the highest standards in the nation. We will fully participate in the common core development process, but we cannot commit to adopting them until we have determined that they meet or exceed our own.
- B) California cannot commit to being bound by the premise that the common core standards must represent 85 percent of all state standards in English language arts and math.
- C) California is eager to submit nominees to serve on the National Validation Committee, and we respectfully request that one to two committee members be appointed from our list of submitted candidates. Our nominees will have critical experience with raising and maintaining standards in this state, which would be helpful to the committee's work.

With these conditions understood, we look forward to being a part of this important national effort. Thank you for the invitation to participate.

Sincerely,


Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

Ted Mitchell
California Board
of Education President


Jack O'Connell
California Superintendent of
Public Instruction

