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The Ohio 8 Coalition's Position on Ohio's Common Core Standards

As we begin football season here in Ohio and nationally, players, coaches, and supporters all strive for the Super Bowl or Championship as the ultimate goal for the season. The desire to reach and win that championship sets the standard for all teams involved. It is, however, up to each team to determine their own playbook or a plan that respects that team's strengths, weaknesses and what is best for them. The Common Core is the Super Bowl of national academic standards, and with it each district will devise a strategy to meet the standard by establishing their own playbook or way of getting there. Initiated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers, the Common Core supports state, school, and student efforts to become and remain competitive in our global economy.

The Ohio 8 Coalition believes that establishing such a high standard and providing this level of flexibility to each state and even further, each school district, is critical for Ohio and the nation. Moreover, the Ohio 8 Coalition believes that all students should have access to an education that will prepare them for the opportunities and challenges they will face after high school. Our student's success in today's global economy is often defined by their education up to and beyond high school. It is these global economies that not only spur comparisons from state to state but also draw contrasts about which American students can compete with others of their age around the world. Under our current system, each state sets its own standards. This has led to a nation with 50 sets of inconsistent (some high and some low) standards, despite the fact that the expectations of colleges and employers in the United States in Math and English are nearly universal and are not bound by national or international borders.

In order to prepare Ohio students for the global reality they will encounter, it is critical that we set appropriate expectations and establish accountability. For this reason, we believe that the Common Core State Standards Initiative has produced K-12 standards in the subjects of Math and English that meet our expectations and help establish accountability not only for Ohio but also for our country.

The Common Core allows each state to develop its own unique accountability model that is demanding, and flexible when necessary, to ensure Ohio's unique needs are addressed. Higher standards will yield better outcomes and that is what we all want for our schools and it is what our children deserve.

The Common Core State Standards are an important opportunity to set consistent, focused, rigorous expectations for all students: a necessary foundation for improving student achievement and ensuring students can compete in Ohio, in the United States and if they choose, across the world.

While our Super Bowl analogy is utilized to illustrate a point—we all know it involves a game, but the Common Core is not. As a result, The Ohio 8 Coalition strongly supports Ohio's adoption of the Common Core Standards Initiative.