***Top 10 Common Core Facts***

1. **Why do we need new standards?** Not every student in the United States has access to a great public school. Not every school is offering its students the rigorous coursework necessary to transition smoothly to postsecondary educational options without remediation. Graduation rates are improving incrementally, but it is clear that gaps that fall along ethnic and racial lines still persist and that the enduring dropout rates cannot persist if this country is going to be globally competitive in the future
2. **Who?** States developed the common core state standards (CCSS) together and most voluntarily adopted them
3. **How many?** To date, 45 states plus the District of Columbia have adopted the CCSSS
4. **What’s covered?** Mathematics and English language arts and literacy (ELA), with science coming soon
5. **When?** States must implement the mathematics and ELA common core standards by 2013-14 school year
6. **What’s different about these standards?** They are fewer in number, clearer, encompass broad academic goals, and designed to prepare students for a variety of postsecondary experiences. The CCSS also are more challenging than most of the current state standards and provide clarity and consistency about what is expected of students
7. **Will there be new tests?** Yes, states must use the related mathematics and ELA assessments by the 2014-2015 school year
8. **Will these tests be different?** Yes, the ‘next generation assessments’ will provide better and more timely and useable feedback to students, parents, and educators
9. **Will these standards tell teachers how to teach?** No, they will provide teachers flexibility to use professional judgment to design instruction for student success
10. **What about students with disabilities and English language learners?** The CCSS provide an historic opportunity to improve access to rigorous academic content standards for ALL students. For students with disabilities and English language learners to meet the standards and fully demonstrate their knowledge and skills, their instruction and assessments must incorporate necessary supports and accommodations