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Leading Education Associations Support Common Core State Standards Initiative

Alliance Says CCSSO/NGA Initiative Can Support a Broad Vision of Student Learning

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, a partnership of 17 major national education associations released the following statement: “The Learning First Alliance Supports the CCSSO/NGA Common Core State Standards Initiative.”

The Learning First Alliance supports steps taken by the Council of Chief State School Officers and National Governors Association to develop a common core of state K-12 standards in mathematics and English language arts.

“The Common Core Standards Initiative has the potential to move us closer to a compelling shared vision for what students should know and be able to do to succeed in the 21st century,” said Brenda Welburn, past Learning First Alliance board chair and executive director of the National Association of State Boards of Education. “By benchmarking them against standards in the world’s top-performing countries, states can make the common core standards a critical resource in their efforts to prepare students for a global age.”

“A robust, voluntary common core of standards can help states share resources and practices for improving teaching and learning for all children,” said Learning First Alliance executive director Claus von Zastrow. “Because states are taking the lead, the initiative honors differences among states while affirming their common commitment to high standards for every student.”

To be successful, the initiative also needs to be supported by aligned curriculum and aligned assessments. The federal government can offer resources to support such assessments. As required by federal law, however, the federal government should not be directly involved in their development or require the implementation of any particular assessment. Educators will need the time, professional development, and resources to ensure that they can use the standards effectively in the classroom.

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Press release provided by the Learning First Alliance. LFA is a permanent partnership of 17 leading education associations with more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools. Alliance members include: the American

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Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Association of School Administrators, American Association of School Personnel Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselor Association, Association of School Business Officials International, Council of Chief State School Officers, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of State Boards of Education, National Education Association, National Middle School Association, National School Public Relations Association, National Staff Development Council, National PTA, National School Boards Association and Phi Delta Kappa International. The Alliance maintains www.publicschoolinsights.org, a website that features what's working in public schools and districts across the country.

Founded in 1906, PDK International is an international association for professional educators. The organization's mission is to support education, particularly public education, as the cornerstone of democracy. More information is online at www.pdkintl.org.