

Statement on the Common Core Learning Standards by Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA) Schools and Centers

**Introduction:** Schools and centers of the ELCA have a rich heritage and long standing commitment to academic excellence and spiritual formation rooted in their Christ-centered missions as they nurture the whole child.

- The Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) may serve as another tool that enhances curriculum development. The rigor of the CCLS is connected with the overall instructional process provided by Lutheran school educators.
- The many elements of curriculum will continue to be determined by individual Lutheran schools of the ELCA, working to meet the needs of their students, and may include incorporating the CCLS.
- The CCLS may serve to assist Lutheran schools of the ELCA in guiding ways that instruction takes place while allowing schools to develop their own curriculum content.
- Lutheran schools of the ELCA are empowered to design and direct the integration of the CCLS within curriculum that ensures the highest quality of academic preparation for students.
- Lutheran schools of the ELCA are committed to infuse their integrated curriculum with the faith, values, vision, and mission that are inherent in the unique identity they possess.

**Summary:** A Lutheran school of the ELCA provides a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates Christian studies, faith formation, and values. As professionals, Lutheran school administrators and teachers continually seek to achieve best practices instructional methods.

Lutheran schools of the ELCA will determine independently the standards that will ensure achievement. Lutheran schools will provide a solid Christian education developed with standards that drive instruction so that every child can be reached with effective education.