



## NCSC Project-Key Points

- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) describe the skills and knowledge in math and reading/writing that students need to learn to be prepared for college and careers. The CCSS are being used by most states and D.C.
- States that use the CCSS must have yearly assessments (tests) based on these standards by the 2014-15 school year, including alternate assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- 24 states and 5 organizations are working together as the National Center and State Collaboration (NCSC) to develop new math and reading/writing alternate assessments based on the CCSS.
- NCSC has identified the “big ideas” in the CCSS. These are the main skills and knowledge in each grade that prepare students for later grades. NCSC has also developed Core Content Connectors or CCCs that focus on these “big ideas.”
- The instruction and assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities will be based on these “big ideas” and the CCCs.
- The assessment for each content area will have about 30 questions and take 1.5-2 hours to finish. The length of the assessment and the type of questions will be determined for each student.
- NCSC has developed materials to help teachers with instruction for students who will take these alternate assessments.
- Some materials are to support lessons designed for students of all abilities in general education classrooms and some materials are designed for small group and one-to-one lessons.
- There are NCSC resources designed to help teachers find a way for students to communicate effectively.
- NCSC’s focus is to help students with significant cognitive disabilities continue their education after high school, to be prepared for employment and to have a fulfilling life in the community.