

**CONTACT:**

Kathleen Wright, kathleen.wright@zaner-bloser.com, 614.678.2335

Celina Fabrizio, cfabrizio@paulwerth.com, 614.745.9462

## Handwriting and the Common Core State Standards

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- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS)—developed by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association—provide a general framework of what students are expected to learn before college.
- The CCSS, adopted by 46 states, are intended to be a “living work,” not an all-inclusive list of curricula. The Common Core Initiative admits that the CCSS “do not describe all that can or should be taught.”
- Handwriting is one of these skills that “can or should be taught.” Because the CCSS allow each state to choose whether or not handwriting should be included in the curricula, some students aren’t learning this foundational skill.
- Without handwriting instruction, students miss the opportunity to learn this pivotal skill that research has shown to improve
  - overall literacy success.
  - critical thinking.
  - memory.
  - fluency and automaticity.
  - reading, writing, and spelling.
- Indiana and Hawaii have entirely eliminated cursive handwriting from the curriculum.
- Some states, such as California and Massachusetts, have augmented the CCSS with handwriting standards that provide a framework for teaching this core component of literacy.