



AN EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT

New Handwriting and Keyboarding Standards Supplement Common Core

K–8 Written Language Production Standards Now Available for State and Local Adoption

COLUMBUS, Ohio (July 24, 2012) – Today, the HW 21 Community released an updated version of the recently developed K–8 [Written Language Production Standards](#). These evidence-based guidelines for handwriting and keyboarding instruction have been formatted for states and local districts to easily incorporate into the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Some states have already begun to incorporate handwriting standards into their curricula. The [Common Core Georgia Performance Standards](#), for example, now require students' proficiency in cursive handwriting.

"I felt that it was critical for Georgia to include this standard in the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards because it's a skill that our students will use throughout their lives," said Georgia's State School Superintendent Dr. John Barge. "While our world revolves around technology, our students will always need to communicate in writing."

The [Written Language Production Standards](#) were developed based on

- basic letter formation and keyboarding indicators included in the CCSS for English Language Arts.
- national and local technology standards and policies.
- state handwriting and keyboarding standards.
- studies in motor skills development from occupational therapists.
- research on language (written and oral) and brain activation.

The standards were produced by the HW 21 Community—an alliance of educators, researchers, and handwriting advocates—in response to a pressing need for explicit handwriting and keyboarding guidelines that was expressed during January's "[Handwriting in the 21st Century? An Educational Summit](#)" (HW 21 Summit).

The [HW 21 Summit](#) gathered researchers and educators from across the country to determine whether—and how—handwriting and keyboarding should be taught in today's classroom. The general consensus among attendees—as indicated through panel discussions and a Summit survey—was that both handwriting and keyboarding need to be taught in order to provide a comprehensive education.

The [Written Language Production Standards](#)—created with a format that allows easy integration into the CCSS—provide explicit guidelines for handwriting and keyboarding instruction that will help educators teach these skills that are vital for 21st century success.

For additional information about the [Written Language Production Standards](#) and the Summit—

including a white paper summary, media coverage, and research details—visit www.hw21summit.com. Join the discussion about handwriting and keyboarding in the 21st century classroom through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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