



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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LITTLE ROCK: Education Commissioner Tom W. Kimbrell voiced his support for the creation of the Common Core State Standards, which were released by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association today at a suburban high school in Atlanta.

“The creation of these mathematics and English language arts standards is a powerful step for this country in terms of advancing our public education system,” Kimbrell said of the Common Core, which states adopt voluntarily. “These standards are benchmarked with the best in the world and fully aligned with college and workforce expectations.”

Two Arkansas Department of Education employees – mathematics specialist Thomas Coy and English language arts specialist Dana Breitweiser – served on committees to review and refine the specific grade level learning standards for those subjects. Among the groups that had a voice in developing the standards were the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Council of Teachers of English.

“We think these are good, rigorous, high-level standards that will prepare our students for success in college or in the world of work,” said Gayle Potter, the department’s director of curriculum and assessment. “We will not be watering down our curriculum by adopting these standards, but we will be encouraging a deeper level of learning of important concepts.”

More information about the Common Core State Standards and their creation are available at www.corestandards.org.

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.

