

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE IN THE USA: IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNT FOR UKRAINE

Prof. Olena Lokshyna, Doctor of Science in Education

Institute of Pedagogy of NAES of Ukraine

Kyiv, Ukraine

The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) as a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers is analyzed. The methods used in the article comprise the literature review, analysis and synthesis of the knowledge, comparison of developments in education in the USA and Ukraine.

The conducted literature review indicated the reason of such initiative introduction in 2009, i.e. the lack of unification of K-12 learning standards and students' proficiency levels within the country – every state had its own definition of students' proficiency in the learning standards. The aim of the initiative is to develop the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In 2015 42 states adopted CCSS in ELA (English Language Arts)/literacy and math. Today all states are in the process of implementing CCSS locally.

Under conditions of cardinal transformations of school education in Ukraine towards democratization and multidimensionality the author stresses the following important aspects of CCSSI realization:

- *multi-purpose character* of CCSS aimed at teaching K 12 graduates both to succeed in entering academic college courses or in workforce training courses; include theoretical knowledge and its application through high-order skills; build upon strengths of state standards and of top performing countries standards to prepare American students to succeed in the globalized economy and society;

- *democratic character* of CCSS development – the designing process relied on teachers and scholars across the whole USA involved in the development of CCSS in the formats of Working Groups and Feedback Groups; of professional associations (National Education Association, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, American Federation of Teachers National Council of Teachers of English, etc.).

- *scientific- and modern life-based essence* of CCSS – a special Validation Committee (VC) was formed consisting of 25 leading experts in education. The VC was charged with providing independent reviewing of evidence determining that the standards-development principles were adhered to by examining the standards for: evidence of the knowledge and skills students need to be college- and career-ready; a proper level of clarity and specificity; evidence that the standards are comparable with other leading countries' expectations; a grounding in available evidence and research.

Keywords: Common Core State Standards Initiative, K-12, USA, school education in Ukraine, reforms.