Graduating Every Student
“Ready for the World”:
Finding Common Ground on
Common Core

The “Common Ground on Common Core”
Conversations

What:
Six two-hour facilitated conversations about standards, tests, and solutions.

Where:
Front Range – from Thornton to Colorado Springs

Who:
About 80 individuals, selected to ensure that diverse views on standards, testing and education reforms were represented.

Why:
To find areas of common understanding underneath the polarized debate.
“Common Ground on Common Core”
Topics

1) The role of public education
2) Statewide Standards
3) Testing
4) Brainstorming: What’s necessary for all students to succeed?

“Common Ground on Common Core”
Process
Common Ground: Public Education

Broad support for public education that prepares students for some formulation of “college and/or career.”

Common Ground: Standards

• Concept of standards (or “guidelines”) has broad support
• Did not find consensus on whether Colorado should “continue on the path” of using current guidelines/standards, but
• Almost universal agreement that Colorado should NOT abandon the CAS, though for differing reasons.
Common Ground: Testing
• Some form of “assessment” is necessary.
• Many participants felt they had insufficient information to judge whether CMAS tests are “a good measure of student achievement.”
• Broad concern that testing is narrowing curriculum and reducing time for learning.
• General consensus that CMAS should not inform teacher pay.

Common Ground: Necessities

Early Childhood Education
Common Ground on Common Core: Conversations in a word