

# Core Knowledge® Foundation

- Our Vision:** Become the program of choice in pre-K-8 education by convincing the educational establishment of the importance of a solid, specific, sequenced, and shared curriculum.
- Our Motto:** Core Knowledge: Educational Excellence and Equity for All Children
- Our Mission:** Offer all children a better chance in life and create a fairer and more literate society by educating America's youth in a solid, specific, sequenced, and shared curriculum.

## Our Strategies:

We will provide our Nation's children with a fairer, higher quality education by:

1. **Influencing and aligning** the standards of the fifty states with the Core Knowledge Sequence.
2. **Increasing** the number of K-8 children who experience a solid, specific, sequenced and shared curriculum, particularly children with low social, economic status, to improve their academic achievement.
3. **Developing** a Core Knowledge Reading/ Language Arts program that builds vocabulary and reading comprehension.
4. **Increasing** the number of preschool programs using the Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence to improve academic readiness and achievement for preschool children.
5. **Influencing** teacher preparation institutions to integrate a content-rich curriculum and Core Knowledge principles into their programs.
6. **Becoming** a recognized voice in educational policy development at the state and federal levels.
7. **Strengthening** our financial practices and maintaining sound financial relationships with our constituents and benefactors.

## Our Professional Values: (CORE)

**(C)ommitment:** We are committed to promoting the Foundation's mission with integrity and enthusiasm. Commitment to one another is strengthened by personal accountability, pride and excellence in job performance, and recognizing one another's individual value within the Foundation.

**(O)pen Communication:** We must listen before we can understand the ideas of others. We realize the value in learning from both our successes and our mistakes. Ideas are shared with sincerity and respect in a forum open to all.

**(R)espect:** We value and respect one another and strengthen the Foundation by supporting a balance between our personal and professional lives. We promote honesty, trust, and compassion to foster the growth of a truly professional workplace. We are mindful of the general good of the organization when prioritizing and resolving concerns.

**(E)sprit de corps:** Staff camaraderie and collegiality are the basis of trust that helps the Foundation grow. We realize the importance of specific tasks to reach our collective goals. We maintain a performance evaluation system to promote job stability and enhance the growth of the individual and the integrity of the Foundation.

## Our Business Principles: (KNOWLEDGE)

**(K)nowledge:** For the sake of academic excellence, greater fairness, and higher literacy, Pre-K-8 schools need a solid, specific, and shared core curriculum to help children establish strong foundations of knowledge, grade by grade. Core Knowledge provides sequenced and grade-specific content, which serves as the basis for skills instruction.

**(N)ot-for-Profit:** We measure our success not with dollars, but by individual, educational achievement. The resource that makes achievement possible is the fair, equitable, content-rich curriculum that is Core Knowledge.

**(O)utstanding Service:** We strive to provide our constituents with first-class service and support and to build relationships based on honesty, professionalism, and trust.

**(W)ell-Run Organization:** We will develop and strengthen a sound financial system. We will maintain our financial relationships with our constituents and benefactors in an efficient, thorough, and honest manner.

**(L)iteracy:** Individuals must not only read, but must be culturally literate to be viable, contributing members of society. A solid, sequenced, specific, and shared base of knowledge makes us a culturally literate nation and an informed, conscientious citizenry.

**(E)quity:** All children should have equal access to the knowledge that builds understanding and higher literacy. Core Knowledge helps all children take the first step toward equal life chances, regardless of race, class, or ethnicity.

**(D)emocratic:** Knowledge is the cornerstone of a just and democratic society. A common body of knowledge helps students become responsible, literate, and competent citizens. We are dedicated to establishing standards that encourage individual excellence and access to quality education for all.

**(G)rowth:** As more schools learn about the knowledge-based curriculum that is Core Knowledge, we will become the classroom program of choice within pre-K-8 education. We will achieve this vision by expanding our influence through advocacy and alliances, and by providing materials, teacher training, and support services to all schools.

**(E)xcellent Resources:** We provide quality books and other print and electronic materials to support the teaching of Core Knowledge and the professional development services we offer to our schools' teachers and leaders.

