

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

*For the Middle and High School Teacher*

The primary goal of this document is to give teachers a quick, easy and timely “go to” resource to navigate the sea of free documents, professional development modules, and videos that have been created to help us understand what the Common Core State Standards mean for our students.

This is by no means a complete list of resources available, but rather a thoughtful collection.

Foundation for Excellence in Education  
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# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

## OVERVIEW

*The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.”*

— [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#)

## ORIGIN

The following video and panel discussion provides background information about the origin and need for these new standards.

**FIVE PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPMENT** – David Coleman and Susan Pimentel discuss the standards development process and an overview of the English Language Arts Common Core State Standards in this short [video](#).

**PANEL DISCUSSION** – Here is a [panel discussion](#) on Common Core State Standards. Panelists included are David Coleman, President and CEO of the College Board, Bob Corcoran, President and Chairman of the GE Foundation, Dr. William Schmidt, University Distinguished Professor and Co-Director of the Education Policy Center at Michigan State University, and is moderated by former Governor of Florida Jeb Bush.

## THE STANDARDS

The Common Core State Standards are different than past standards; if you have not reviewed the Common Core State Standards in their entirety, you will want to download the standards from the official site.

[www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

**THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS** include appendices. Be sure to explore these as they are essential components of the ELA Common Core State Standards.

**APPENDIX A** provides research supporting key elements of the standards:

- Why Text Complexity Matters
- Reading Foundational Skills
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening

- Language
- Vocabulary
- Bibliography
- Glossary of Terms

**APPENDIX B** provides text samples to show the level of complexity and quality that students will be expected to engage with. The text samples are supplemented by brief performance tasks that further clarify the meaning of the Standards.

**APPENDIX C** provides writing samples that have been annotated to illustrate the criteria required to meet the standards for particular types of writing: argument, informative/explanatory text and narrative. Each of the samples exhibits the level of quality required to meet the writing standards for that grade.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL SHIFTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**LET’S CHAT CORE SERIES WITH SARAH BROWN WESSLING** video series is designed to provide understanding of the design, background, and instructional implications of the ELA Common Core State Standards. This series is comprised of three 14 minute videos that offer a discussion focused upon the 6 instructional shifts and challenges of implementing the standards. Following are the titles and links to view each of the three videos:

1. [Learning to Read the Core: A View from 30,000 Feet](#)
2. [Think Alouds: Unpacking the Standards](#)
3. [Simplifying Text Complexity](#)

In order to ensure that all students are college and career ready, teachers must begin making **shifts** within their day to day instruction. There are 6 instructional shifts we must make:

<i>English Language Arts Common Core State Standards Instructional Shifts</i>			
#	Instructional Shifts	Explanation	Watch Videos Explaining the Key Instructional Shifts
1	Balancing Informational & Literary Text	Increased attention to informational text in English Language Arts and across all content areas.	<a href="http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-1-pk-5-balancing-informational-text-and-literature/"><u>http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-1-pk-5-balancing-informational-text-and-literature/</u></a> (10 minutes)
2	Knowledge in Other Content Areas	Students build knowledge about the world (content areas) through TEXT rather than the teacher or activities.	<a href="http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-2-6-12-building-knowledge-in-the-disciplines/"><u>http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-2-6-12-building-knowledge-in-the-disciplines/</u></a> (8 minutes)
3	Staircase of Complexity	Reading of high quality, more difficult text.	<a href="http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-3-staircase-of-complexity/"><u>http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-3-staircase-of-complexity/</u></a> (15 minutes)

4	Text-based Answers	Students engage in rich conversations about text, using text evidence to support arguments.	<a href="http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-4-text-based-answers/">http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-4-text-based-answers/</a> (12 minutes)
5	Writing from Sources	Purposeful writing that uses text evidence to support reasoning and building and defending arguments.	<a href="http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-5-writing-from-sources/">http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-5-writing-from-sources/</a> (12 minutes)
6	Academic Vocabulary	Students constantly build the vocabulary they need to access grade level complex texts.	<a href="http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-6-academic-vocabulary/">http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-6-academic-vocabulary/</a> (8 minutes)

*\*Adapted from AchievetheCore.org*

**ACHIEVE THE CORE** has lessons that provide examples of close reading and analytical read alouds. These exemplars contain full materials for two to five lessons each, based on fiction and nonfiction texts, and are searchable by grade level. The exemplars include:

- Readings with teacher and student instructions
- Text dependent questions
- Student discussion activities
- Vocabulary and syntax tasks for challenging words and phrases
- Writing-based formative assessments

Periodically new exemplar lessons are added to this site; to receive these updates subscribe to the [Achieve the Core](#) newsletter.

## **INSIDE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CLASSROOM**

**VIDEOS FROM THE TEACHING CHANNEL** offer real classroom examples of changes in teaching practice under Common Core State Standards. The following videos feature teachers discussing shifts in their teaching to provide the learning environment required for students to successfully meet the challenges of the Common Core State Standards.

- [Common Core Standards in the Middle School](#) (14 minutes)
- [Common Core Standards in the High School](#) (14 minutes)

**AMERICA ACHIEVES** provides [a website](#) showcasing video modules to help prepare teachers to transition to the Common Core State Standards and provides many other Common Core resources. In order to view the videos, you will need to sign up for a free account on the website's home page.

Here are a couple of videos worth highlighting:

- [Symbolism in “The Lottery”](#) (16 minutes)  
The short story used in this 9<sup>th</sup> grade lesson is The Lottery by Shirley Jackson. The class has been reading this text for a week, examining the character development and the big question of “How does tradition impact a culture,” and discussing this question each day. At end of this unit students will produce a piece of writing on symbolism and irony.

- [Characterization in “The Dead” \(15 minutes\)](#)

This 11<sup>th</sup> grade lesson is part of an Irish Literature unit focusing on issues of trying to establish identity, fear, and anxiety over identity. The unit includes works from Joyce, Yeats, and Swift. Prior to this lesson, students have studied James Joyce’s stories Araby, After the Race, and A Painful Case. This is the second lesson reading Joyce’s The Dead and it focuses on characterization and authorial choice. At the end of the unit students will write an essay that focuses on how authorial choice creates effects in a W.B. Yeats poem.

## ***ELA CURRICULUM RESOURCES***

[THE TEACHING CHANNEL](#) offers classroom-based videos that inspire and support teachers as they shift practices. This is a site you can spend a lot of time exploring and never be disappointed by what you find.

[ANTHOLOGY ALIGNMENT PROJECT](#) offers a library of revised lessons for common Anthologies (6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grades), each carefully aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Each new lesson includes quality text-dependent questions, improved tasks, and a focus on academic vocabulary.

[THE STATE OF LOUISIANA’S COMMON CORE](#) site offers transitional curricula resources for teachers as well as school and district leaders. It includes Common Core aligned year-long scope and sequence documents for all grades and guides to assessment and planning.

[ENGAGE NY](#) is engaging teachers, administrators, and education experts across the state and nation in the creation of curriculum resources, instructional materials, professional development, samples of test questions, test specifications, and other test-related materials that will help with the transition to the Common Core State Standards.

- [Exemplar lessons](#)
- [Video Lessons](#)
- [The Instructional Practice Evidence Guide](#)

[ASSOCIATION FOR SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT \(ASCD\)](#) provides [a free EduCore digital tool](#) that is a repository of evidence-based strategies, videos, and supporting documents that help educators transition to the Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English language arts and literacy.

- [Webinar Tools for Implementing Common Core State Standards](#)
- [Resource Library](#)

[READWRITETHINK.ORG](#) provides lesson plans aligned to the Common Core State Standards. These alignments are provided courtesy of a collaborative project between Verizon, Thinkfinity, and EdGate and are revised on a regular basis as new or updated standards become available. Here are a couple of examples.

- [Lesson Plans](#)  
Traditionally, teachers have encouraged students to engage with and interpret literature—novels, poems, short stories, and plays. Under Common Core State Standards, students will analyze the spoken word more closely. After gaining skill through analyzing a historic and

contemporary speech as a class, students will select a famous speech from a list compiled from several resources and write an essay that identifies and explains the rhetorical strategies that the author deliberately chose while crafting the text to make an effective argument. Their analysis will consider questions such as: What makes the speech an argument?; How did the author's rhetoric evoke a response from the audience?; and Why are the words still venerated today?

- Digital Student Interaction

Effective vocabulary instruction requires active and positive student participation. In this activity, students flip two chips to mix and match four word parts to make four words. Students then insert the four words into a paragraph, using context clues to determine where each word belongs.

LITERACY DESIGN COLLABORATIVE has designed template tasks that are fill-in-the-blank “shells” built off the Common Core State Standards. They allow teachers to insert the texts to be read, writing to be produced, and the content to be addressed. When completed, template tasks create high-quality student assignments that develop reading, writing, and thinking skills in the context of learning science and history.

ELA/LITERACY PUBLISHERS' CRITERIA are provided for grades 3-12 and are designed to help educators judge classroom materials and reflect on the appropriate use of existing resources and strategies. The document can also serve as a tool to select Common Core aligned instructional materials for use.

LEARNZILLON

Today's technology-driven world offers tremendous resources to help teachers *and* parents improve student learning. Digital learning offers some great ways for students to get practice in at home and prepare to succeed under Common Core State Standards in Math and English Language Arts. Here are just a couple of free online lessons from LearnZillion worth exploring.

- Learn how to determine a poem's theme by considering imagery, sound, and symbolism.
- Learn how to revise your thinking based on new information learned from a text.

## **RESOURCES FOR PARENTS**

**PARENT ROADMAPS** were developed by the Council of the Great City Schools to provide guidance to parents about what their children will be learning and how they can support that learning in grades K-12. These parent roadmaps for each grade level also provide three-year snapshots showing how selected standards progress from year to year so that students will be college and career ready upon their graduation from high school.

- **Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts**
- **Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics**

**THE NATIONAL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)** has created parent guides in response to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The Parent Guides include:

- Key items that children should be learning in English language arts and mathematics in each grade, once the standards are fully implemented.
- Activities that parents can do at home to support their child's learning.
- Methods for helping parents build stronger relationships with their child's teacher.
- Tips for planning for college and career (high school only).

**PARENT'S BACKPACK GUIDE TO COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS** were developed by EngageNY, and provide parent-friendly charts that show the shifts that will occur in the English Language Arts and Mathematics classrooms due to the Common Core State Standards. It also provides examples of what students may bring home in their backpacks, and what parents can do to help at home.

# MATHEMATICS COMMON CORE STANDARDS

## ORIGIN

### ***THE MATHEMATICS COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: HOW THEY WERE DEVELOPED***

Common Core State Standards contributing authors Jason Zimba and William McCallum provide an [8 minute video explanation](#) of how and why the mathematics standards were written.

The Common Core State Standards are different than past standards; if you have not reviewed the Common Core State Standards in their entirety, you will want to download the standards from the official site.

[www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

***THE MATHEMATICS COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS*** provide eight Standards for Mathematical Practice to describe the varieties of expertise that mathematics educators at all levels should seek to develop in their students. These practices rest on important “processes and proficiencies” with longstanding importance in mathematics education. The content standards are organized by grade level in grades K-8. At the high school level, the standards are organized by conceptual category (number and quantity, algebra, functions, geometry, modeling and probability and statistics), showing the body of knowledge students should learn in each category to be college and career ready, and to be prepared to study advanced mathematics. The Math Common Core State Standards also include an Appendix.

***APPENDIX A*** offers pathways for course design and connections with the 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice.

## ***INSTRUCTIONAL SHIFTS IN MATHEMATICS***

***LET'S CHAT CORE SERIES WITH SARAH BROWN WESSLING*** video series is designed to provide understanding of the design, background and instructional implications of the Math Common Core State Standards. This series is comprised of three 14 minute videos that offer a discussion focused upon instructional shifts and challenges of implementing the standards. Following are the titles and links to view each of the three videos:

1. [Learning to Read the Core: A View from 30,000 Feet](#)
2. [Think Alouds: Unpacking the Standards](#)
3. [Beyond Right Answers: Math and the Common Core State Standards](#)



In order to ensure that all students are college and career ready, teachers must begin making shifts within their day to day instruction. There are 6 instructional shifts we must make:

### *Shifts in Mathematics*

#	Instructional Shifts	Explanation	Watch Videos Explaining the Key Instructional Shifts
1	<b>Focus</b>	Teachers significantly narrow and deepen the scope of how time and energy is spent in the math classroom. They do so in order to focus deeply on only the concepts that are most important.	<a href="http://www.engageny.org/resource/mon-core-in-mathematics-shift-1-focus">http://www.engageny.org/resource/mon-core-in-mathematics-shift-1-focus</a>  (15 minutes)
2	<b>Coherence</b>	Principals and teachers carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years. Students will be learning math topics deeply, so there won't be a lot of repetition year-after-year.	32 minute video discussing shifts 2-6: <a href="http://www.engageny.org/resource/mon-core-in-mathematics-shifts-2-6">http://www.engageny.org/resource/mon-core-in-mathematics-shifts-2-6</a>  (32 minutes)
3	<b>Fluency</b>	Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with simple calculations; teachers' structure class time and/or homework time for students to memorize core functions through repetition.	
4	<b>Deep Understanding</b>	Students deeply understand and can operate easily within a math concept before moving on. They learn more than the trick to get the answer right. They learn the reasoning behind the math.	
5	<b>Application</b>	Students are expected to choose the appropriate concept for application even when they are not prompted to do so.	
6	<b>Dual Intensity</b>	Students are practicing and understanding. There is more than a balance between these two things in the classroom – both are occurring with intensity.	

*\*Adapted from AchievetheCore.org*

### **WATCH A VIDEO EXPLAINING THE KEY INSTRUCTIONAL SHIFTS**

David Coleman, contributing author for the Common Core State Standards, presents a thorough 13 minute video introduction to the shifts in the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF COHERENCE IN MATHEMATICS**

William McCallum, contributing author of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics offers a 5 minute video explanation of how math is connected and why students don't see it that way.

## ***INSIDE THE MATH CLASSROOM***

**ILLUSTRATIVE MATHEMATICS** provides guidance to teachers by illustrating the range and types of mathematical work that students experience in a faithful implementation of the Common Core State Standards, and by publishing other tools that support implementation of the standards. Following are examples of Lesson materials that are available. Lesson materials include lessons with narrative support, class and individual work artifacts, videos of lesson, as well as a reflective commentary. A unique feature of the lesson design is that they focus on the *Mathematical Practices* as described within the Common Core State Standards as well as mathematical concepts.

- **Middle School: 7 Foot Intervals** (2 minutes)  
Students proficient in math notice if calculations are repeated, and look both for general methods and for shortcuts. When students proficient in math work to solve a problem they maintain oversight of the process, while attending to the details. They continually evaluate the reasonableness of their results.
- **High School: Chicken and Pigs** (3 minutes)  
Mathematically proficient students make sense of quantities and their relationships in problem situations. They have the ability to *decontextualize* a given situation and manipulate the representing symbols, and the ability to *contextualize*, to pause as needed during the manipulation process.

**AMERICA ACHIEVES** provides a website showcasing video modules to help prepare teachers to transition to the Common Core State Standards and provides many other Common Core resources. Here is one algebraic thinking unit from the America Achieves Common Core site worth highlighting:

- **Simplifying Rational Expressions** (10 minutes)  
This lesson on simplification of rational expressions follows two weeks working on factoring as a way to solve quadratic equations. The lesson focuses on making a link between simplification of arithmetic and algebraic fractions, and factoring for simplification.

This site has a large selection of both English language arts and mathematics lessons worth perusing.

**THE TEACHING CHANNEL** offers classroom based videos that inspire and support teachers as they shift practices. Here are a few examples worth viewing:

- [Middle Grades: Solving a Problem – Making a Plan](#) (3 minutes)  
This video features middle grades class creating a plan for solving a problem.
- [Middle Grades: Table for 22: A Real-World Geometry Project](#) (14 minutes)  
This video of a geometry lesson demonstrates the importance of both the mathematical practices and knowing mathematical content.
- [Middle Grades: Discovering the Surface Area of a Cylinder – Geometry](#) (27 minutes)  
The mathematical practices call for students to perceive and apply what they know about mathematics in multiple ways. This video features students working to determine the surface area of a cylinder without first knowing the formula.
- [Grades 9-12: Carousel Activity – Rotating Through Geometry Stations](#) (5 minutes)  
Students use the organization of a carousel activity throughout this lesson.

## ***MATH CURRICULUM RESOURCES***

***THE INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS AND EDUCATION*** developed narrative documents describing the progression of a topic across grade levels. The Progression Scales for Mathematics project is organizing the writing of final versions of the progressions documents for the K–12 Common Core State Standards.

***ACHIEVE THE CORE*** offers videos of and materials for exemplar lessons for the middle and high school classrooms. Each lesson provides:

- Lesson Resources: lesson plan and all support materials needed
- Student Work Samples to help determine conceptual understanding and application
- Ideas and Links that provide the teacher with background

***THE NATIONAL MATH + SCIENCE INITIATIVE*** provides tools to prepare for the Common Core State Standards and the upcoming Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments. To access these free resources, from the home page, click on the “Get Free Resources” button and create a profile. You will have unlimited access to these resources and all new open resources.

***ENGAGE NY*** is engaging teachers, administrators, and education experts across the state and nation in the creation of curriculum resources, instructional materials, professional development materials, samples of test questions, test specifications, and other test-related materials that will help with the transition to the Common Core State Standards.

- [Exemplar Math Lessons](#)

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### **KHAN ACADEMY**

Today's technology-driven world offers tremendous resources to help teachers *and* parents improve student learning. Digital learning offers some great ways for students to get practice in at home and prepare to succeed under Common Core State Standards in Math and English Language Arts. Here are just a few free online lessons from Khan Academy worth exploring.

- [Grade 7: Area of a Circle](#)
- [Grade 8: Recognizing Rational and Irrational Numbers](#)
- [High School Algebra: Solving a Quadratic Equation by Factoring](#)
- [High School Geometry: Congruent Triangles](#)

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- ***Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core State Standards for [Mathematics](#)***

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## **STATE ASSESSMENTS ALIGNED TO COMMON CORE**

There are two assessment consortiums that are developing assessments aligned to Common Core State Standards and anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. The two assessment consortiums are the ***Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*** and the ***Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)***.

- 1) ***Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC)*** is a group of states working together to develop Common Core aligned K-12 assessments in English and math that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate high school college and career ready.
- 2) ***Smarter Balanced Assessment*** is a state-led consortium developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate high school college and career ready.

There are also other testing companies that are in the process of creating Common Core aligned assessments for states' use. PARCC and Smarter Balanced, along with these, will provide many assessment options allowing states to select the assessment that best meets their needs.

To find out what assessment your state will choose to administer, contact your state's education department.

### ***MORE ON PARCC***

***PARCC*** has provided its first set of ***item and task prototypes*** for both English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The prototypes are illustrative of how the critical content and skills found in the Common Core State Standards will be measured by the PARCC assessments. The prototype items are early samples or models that may be helpful in building the actual assessment items. They also give educators and the public an early look at what next generation assessment items may look like:

- ***English Language Arts***
- ***Math***

***PARCC ASSESSMENT BLUEPRINTS AND TEST SPECIFICATIONS*** have been developed to help educators and the general public better understand the design of the PARCC assessments.

***PARCC ACCOMMODATIONS MANUAL*** ensures that *all* students have access to high-quality assessments. For the assessment system as a whole, PARCC is committed to ensuring that *all participating students*, including English language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities (SWDs), are able to engage in a meaningful and appropriate manner so valid results can be obtained. Through a combination of Universal Design principles and computer-embedded supports, PARCC is designing an assessment system that is inclusive of all students – from initial design through implementation.

***PARCC PLACE*** is a newsletter that offers updates on PARCC's major areas of work, resources, and meetings. For regular updates on PARCC, subscribe at the PARCC Place link to receive the newsletter.

### ***MORE ON SMARTER BALANCED***

#### ***AN EARLY LOOK AT SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS***

Available nearly two years before the assessment system is implemented in the 2014-15 school year, the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests allow teachers, students, parents, and other interested parties

to experience the features of online testing and gain insight into how Smarter Balanced will assess students' mastery of the Common Core.

**SAMPLE ASSESSMENT ITEMS AND PERFORMANCE TASKS FAQ**

This two-page handout includes 10 frequently asked questions that explain the purpose of the sample items and performance tasks, and how they are intended to be utilized to help teachers, administrators, and policymakers implement the Common Core State Standards and prepare for the implementation of the Smarter Balanced assessment system in the 2014-15 school year.

**SUPPORT FOR UNDER-REPRESENTED STUDENTS**

The Smarter Balanced assessment System will provide accurate measures of achievement and growth for students with disabilities and English language learners. The assessments will address visual, auditory, and physical access barriers, as well as the unique needs of English language learners, allowing virtually all students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

**WHAT WILL SMART BALANCED ASSESSMENTS MEAN FOR ME?**

This one-page handout provides an overview of the key benefits of the Smarter Balanced assessments for parents, students, teachers, and policymakers.

**SMARTER BALANCED ITEM AND PERFORMANCE TASK SPECIFICATIONS** provide guidance on how to translate the Smarter Balanced Content Specifications into actual assessment items. In addition, guidelines for bias and sensitivity, accessibility and accommodations, and style help item developers and reviewers ensure consistency and fairness across the item bank. The specifications and guidelines were reviewed by member states, school districts, higher education, and other stakeholders.