

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

For the Elementary Classroom 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
Summer 2013



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 provide 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. The panelists include 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 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, the first thing you need to do is download the standards from the official site.

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 of the level of complexity and quality that students will be expected to engage with. The text exemplars 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 a better 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 on the 6 instructional shifts and challenges of implementing the standards. Below 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	More attention to informational text in English Language Arts classrooms and across all content areas.	<u>http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-1-pk-5-balancing-informational-text-and-literature/</u> (10 minutes)
2	Knowledge in Other Content Areas	Students build knowledge about the world (content areas) through TEXT rather than the teacher or activities.	<u>http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-2-6-12-building-knowledge-in-the-disciplines/</u> (8 minutes)
3	Staircase of Complexity	Reading of high quality, more difficult text.	<u>http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-3-staircase-of-complexity/</u> (15 minutes)

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

AMERICA ACHIEVES [provides a website](#) showcasing video modules to help prepare teachers to transition to the Common Core State Standards and also provides many other Common Core resources. A couple of videos worth highlighting:

- ["The Making of a Scientist" by David Liben](#) (15 minutes)
This is an example of a 5th grade nonfiction lesson focused on asking text-dependent questions and building academic vocabulary in an elementary classroom.
- ["The Wonders of Nature" by Cheryl Ryan](#) (15 minutes)
This lesson features 2nd grade students identifying, underlining, and discussing evidence from the text and drawing inferences from evidence.

THIS FOUR VIDEO SERIES FROM THE TEACHING CHANNEL features a 5th grade class using collaborative conversations (Speaking and Listening standards) to support thinking and writing about a complex informational text. Many English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instructional strategies are visible throughout the video as well as helpful management ideas that support an effective collaborative discussion within a whole group setting.

- [Analyzing Texts: Overview of a Lesson Series](#) (5 minutes)
This video provides an overview of a lesson series developed to support students with analyzing texts. The lesson series includes students brainstorming before writing, talking about the text with peers, and then putting their thoughts on paper.
- [Analyzing Texts: Brainstorm Before Writing](#) (5 minutes)
Prior to writing students are asked to work together and discuss notes taken during reading. This discussion helps students understand the information within the story and is a time to clear up any confusion.
- [Analyzing Texts: “Text Talk Time”](#) (5 minutes)
Following brainstorming, the students are asked to participate in “Text Talk Time”. The purpose is to provide additional pre-writing support in citing evidence found within the text during writing.
- [Analyzing Texts: Putting Thoughts on Paper](#) (7 minutes)
The final step is for the students to put their thoughts on paper. The supports provided throughout help all students successfully achieve the intended academic and social outcomes for the lesson.

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.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION was created by the Center on Instruction and based on an analysis that determined the sub-skills students need to achieve in each of the Foundational Skills (K–5) in the Common Core State Standards. It contains five sections, each targeting one grade level in: Print Concepts, Phonological Awareness, Phonics and Word Recognition, and Fluency. It also includes instructional examples aligned to the sub-skills, giving teachers samples of activity types that facilitate acquisition of the sub-skills. Each chart includes up to three grade levels to inform instruction for students who need extra support or intervention, or for students performing above grade-level expectations and require enrichment, to allow a teacher to see which skills should have been mastered in the previous year and what students are preparing for in the upcoming years.

THE BASAL ALIGNMENT PROJECT offers a library of 300+ revised lessons for the common Basal reading series (3rd -5th grades), each carefully aligned to Common Core. 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, includes Common Core aligned year-long scope and sequence documents for all grades and guides to assessment and planning.

THE CURRICULUM CORNER, a teacher created site, offers materials that present the Common Core State Standards in a kid friendly format. Kindergarten “I Can” standards are provided as well as a checklist format for grades 1-5.

ENGAGENY is engaging educators across the State and nation in the creation of curriculum resources, instructional materials, professional development materials, samples of test questions, 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 CCSS](#)
- [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.

- [Lesson Plans](#)
- [Digital Student Interaction](#)

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 K-2](#) and [3-12](#) and are designed to help educators judge classroom materials and reflect on the appropriate use of existing resources and strategies. It 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 to [summarize the plot of a lengthy poem](#) by examining the details of each stanza.
- Learn to [revise your thinking based on new information](#) learned from a text.

MATHEMATICS COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

ORIGIN

THE MATHEMATICS STANDARDS: HOW THEY WERE DEVELOPED (8 minutes)

Common Core State Standards contributing authors Jason Zimba and William McCallum provide a [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, the first thing you need to do is download the standards from the official site.

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 eight Standards for Mathematical Practice.

INSTRUCTIONAL SHIFTS IN MATHEMATICS

LET'S CHAT CORE SERIES WITH SARAH BROWN WESSLING is a video series designed to provide a better 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 on instructional shifts and challenges of implementing the standards. Below 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 CCSS](#)

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 all make:

INSTRUCTIONAL SHIFTS IN MATHEMATICS

#	Instructional Shifts	Explanation	Watch Videos Explaining the Key Instructional Shifts
1	Focus	Rather than racing to cover topics in today's mile-wide and inch-deep curriculum, teachers will 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.	Instructional Shift 1: http://www.engageny.org/resource/comm-on-core-in-mathematics-shift-1-focus (15 minutes)
2	Coherence	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.	Instructional Shifts 2-6: http://www.engageny.org/resource/comm-on-core-in-mathematics-shifts-2-6 (32 minutes)
3	Fluency	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	Deep Understanding	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	Application	Students are expected to choose the appropriate concept for application even when they are not prompted to do so.	
6	Dual Intensity	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 (13 minutes)

David Coleman, a contributing author for the Common Core State Standards, provides a [video explanation](#) of the shifts in the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

[THE IMPORTANCE OF COHERENCE IN MATHEMATICS](#) (5 minutes)

William McCallum, a contributing author of the Common Core Mathematics Standards, offers an explanation of how math skills and procedures are connected and why students don't see it that way.

INSIDE THE MATHEMATICS CLASSROOM

[ILLUSTRATIVE MATHEMATICS](#) provides guidance to teachers through illustrating the range and types of mathematical work that students should experience when Common Core State Standards are implemented faithfully. Following are just a couple of examples of lesson materials that are available. These lesson materials include lessons with narrative support, class and individual work artifacts, videos of lesson, as well as a reflective commentary:

- **2nd Grade: Meg's Balloons**
(Lesson and video [available here](#) **under practice standard 3**)
Although students may have methods to calculate and to solve different kinds of story problems, it is a different skill to look *across* related problems to notice generalizations about the behavior of the operations involved.
- **3rd Grade: Adding 1 to an Addend, Adding 1 to a Factor**
(Lesson and video [available here](#) **under practice standard 3**)
This extended example presents a sequence of eight lessons in which students 1) identify regularities they notice in pairs of related problems, 2) articulate a generalization about the behavior of an operation, 3) explore that generalization, and 4) develop arguments to prove that the generalization is true for all whole numbers.

AMERICA ACHIEVES provides a [website showcasing video modules](#) to help teachers prepare to transition to the Common Core State Standards. This site has a large selection of both English language arts and mathematics elementary lessons worth perusing.

One algebraic thinking unit from the America Achieves Common Core State Standards site worth highlighting:

- ***[Algebraic Thinking: The Tables Problem, by Andrea Smith](#)*** (15 minutes)
The goal of this unit is to develop students' conceptual understanding of variables, properties of numbers, and being able to use the five representations, tables, graphs, equations, models, and words to show the relationship between variables. The introductory lesson incorporated children's literature so as to put the patterns in a familiar student-friendly context. This lesson shows the incorporation of a real-world application problem.

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

- **Kindergarten through Second Grade Number Sense –**
 - ***[Counting Collections to 100](#)*** (7 minutes) features a first grade class using what they know about number sense to count to 100 by 10's. The focus of this lesson is a deeper understanding of "why" their answers are correct and the mathematical principle that supports it.

- [*Counting Collections*](#) (12 minutes) features a Kindergarten lesson that builds upon number sense concepts. Students are given a collection and an organization tip, they are to organize their collection and record how and why they chose to do so. The teacher ties this discussion to counting by 10's or 1's.
- [*Making Math Fun with Place Value Game*](#) (7 minutes) features a 2nd grade class engaging in a game to reinforce their understanding of place value as it relates to number sense.
- **Intermediate Grades (3-5): Reasoning with Mathematics –**
 - [*Reasoning About Division*](#) (8 minutes) features a fourth grade class engaged in a division lesson. The teacher guides them through discussions focused not only on the correct answer to the mathematical problem, but how they determined the answer. Her focus is upon the students' abilities to articulate a clear understanding as to why the answer is correct.
 - [*Reasoning with Multiplication and Division*](#) (7 minutes) demonstrates the need for discussion within the mathematics classroom. The teacher of this third grade class, uses a lesson on multiples of 4 to lead discussion that reveals the students' understanding of multiplication and its relationship to division.

MATH CURRICULUM RESOURCES

[***THE INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS AND EDUCATION***](#) at the University of Arizona developed narrative documents describing the progression of a topic across grade levels.

[***ACHIEVE THE CORE***](#) offers both videos of and materials for exemplar lessons for the elementary classroom. 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***](#) has provided tools needed 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.

[***ENGAGENY***](#) is engaging educators across the State and nation in the creation of [curriculum resources](#), instructional materials, [professional development materials](#), [samples of test questions](#), and other test-related materials that will help with the transition to the Common Core State Standards.

- [Exemplar Lessons](#)
- [Lesson Videos](#)

[***ASSOCIATION FOR SUPERVISION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT***](#)¹ provides a free [EduCore digital tool](#) that serves as 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 CCSS](#)
- [Resource library](#)

MATHEMATICS PUBLISHERS' CRITERIA are provided for grades K-8. These are designed to help educators judge classroom materials and reflect on the appropriate use of existing resources and strategies. It can also serve as a tool to select Common Core aligned instructional materials for use.

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.

- [Addition and Subtraction](#)
- [Multiplication and Division](#)
- [Fractions](#)
- [Applying Math Reasoning](#)

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 (CCSS) 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.

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 instructional 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.