

# California's Common Core State Standards: A Parent's Guide



Roseville Joint Union High School District  
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

**“Working together to provide a  
comprehensive, systematic, rigorous  
and relevant education to all students  
in Placer County”**

**PCOE**  
GOLD IN EDUCATION

**Gayle Garbolino-Mojica**  
*County Superintendent of Schools*

# Why Common Core?

**The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).**

**PREPARATION:** The standards were planned to address your child's expectations of Higher Education and Career Partners. They promote the use of Mathematics and Literacy in other subjects and in daily life.

**COMPETITION:** The standards are internationally measured regularly, ensuring our students are globally competitive.

**EQUITY:** Expectations are consistent for all students regardless of where a child lives or goes to school.

**CLARITY:**

- Focus - fewer concepts at each grade level at a greater degree of mastery.
- Coherent - a solid foundation and new understandings for students through connections to learning across grade levels.

**COLLABORATION:** The Common Core State Standards plan for collaborative work (by students and instructors) globally, thus increasing every student's achievement.



# What Does this Mean?

The **CCSS Math content standards** are more rigorous, more coherent, and more focused than most states' previous standards. They are more:

- **FOCUSED** in that teachers will now go deeper into the BIG IDEAS of mathematics and help students build a stronger foundation of mathematics. Students will learn fewer concepts at each grade level, but to a greater degree of comprehensive mastery.
- **COHERENT** in that teachers will intentionally connect the learning across grades so that students can strengthen their foundation and build new understandings. Teachers help students link major topics and see how other parts of mathematics support these major topics.
- **RIGOROUS** in that they require students to learn about how they think, calculate with speed and accuracy, become fluent with basic math facts and operations, and use mathematics in coordination and integration with any subject or technology in daily life.

The **English language arts and literacy standards** include **reading, writing, speaking, and listening** regularly in English language arts classes as well as in science, social studies, and technical subjects. Expect your child to:

- **BUILD KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CONTENT-RICH NONFICTION** reading in history, social studies, science, and the arts. Reading is crucial for life-long growth and achievement.
- **READ AND WRITE TEXT GROUNDED IN EVIDENCE** rather than asking students to respond to questions that they can answer solely from prior knowledge or experience.
- **PRACTICE WITH COMPLEX TEXT AND ACADEMIC LANGUAGE** because the ability to comprehend complex and technical texts is the most significant factor distinguishing a college- and career ready learner.

# Mathematics

## Every Math Class will build on:

- Varied ways of solving problems
- Fluency with Core Skills
- Real-world, meaningful learning

## STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
4. Model with mathematics
5. Use appropriate tools strategically
6. Attend to precision
7. Look for and make use of structure
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

## STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL CONTENT:

- Grades 6-8: Develop a robust understanding of algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics.
- High School: Apply mathematics and mathematical ways of thinking in unique and compelling situations, for career- and college-readiness.
- College and Career: Develop and nurture depth of knowledge as college students and employees are regularly called upon to do.



## DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE (DOK):

When your student is working a problem for school, what level of thinking is required? Use Depth of Knowledge to challenge your student to deeper levels of thinking. They will be asked to:

Level One Activities	Level Two Activities
Recall elements and details of story structure, such as sequence of events, character, plot and setting.	Identify and summarize the major events in a narrative.
Conduct basic mathematical calculations.	Use context cues to identify the meaning of unfamiliar words.
Label locations on a map.	Solve routine multiple-step problems.
Represent in words or diagrams a scientific concept or relationship.	Describe the cause/effect of a particular event.
Perform routine procedures like measuring length or using punctuation marks correctly.	Identify patterns in events or behavior.
Describe the features of a place or people.	Formulate a routine problem given data and conditions.
	Organize, represent and interpret data.
Level Three Activities	Level Four Activities
Support ideas with details and examples.	Conduct a project that requires specifying a problem, designing and conducting an experiment, analyzing its data, and reporting results/ solutions.
Use voice appropriate to the purpose and audience.	Apply mathematical model to illuminate a problem or situation.
Identify research questions and design investigations for a scientific problem.	Analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources.
Develop a scientific model for a complex situation.	Describe and illustrate how common themes are found across texts from different cultures.
Determine the author's purpose and describe how it affects the interpretation of a reading selection.	Design a mathematical model to inform and solve a practical or abstract situation.
Apply a concept in other contexts.	

## WHAT CAN I VIEW AT HOME?

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/common-core-state-standards>

## Making Math a Part of your Family's Life:

- Talk to your son/daughter about math as empowering
- Know what they are studying in math
- Have high expectations for your son/ daughter
- Encourage your son/ daughter to use technology in math
- Make math an everyday part of your family
- Notice mathematics in the world

Many ideas for helping students learn and enjoy mathematics may be found

[here:](#)

# English Language Arts

## READING:

- A progressive development of reading comprehension ensures students gain more from what they read
- An emphasis on text complexity and sophistication in grade level text promotes necessary rigor.

## WRITING:

- Focuses on composing different types of writing:
  - Argumentative/opinion pieces
  - Informative/explanatory writings
  - Narrative texts
  - Research projects (brief as well as sustained inquiry)
- Infuses technology into creation, refinement, and collaboration in writing.

## SPEAKING AND LISTENING:

- Focuses on **speaking** and **listening** in a range of settings, both formal and informal-academic, small-group, whole-class discussions.
- Focuses on evidence-based conversations around text.
- Requires interpretation and analysis of the message as presented through oral, visual, and multimodal formats.

## LANGUAGE:

- Includes conventions for writing and speaking
- Highlights the importance of *vocabulary acquisition* through a mixture of conversation, direct instruction, and reading
- Requires vocabulary to be addressed in the context of **reading, writing, speaking, and listening.**

## How you can support Depth of Knowledge at home:

- Encourage your student to read widely — from lots of different sources — in order for them to gain experience and practice reading different types of text.
- Question them about what they read including any vocabulary that is required for clear understanding of texts. Spend time on individual words, and also share your experience with words specific to a particular situation. Discuss words that have multiple or complex meanings. Ask them what they think the writer is saying and meaning.
- Support their reading by encouraging them to explain and note difficult passages. Discuss key details about what they read. Ask "why" and "how"-type questions that require us all to analyze text.

## HELPFUL LINKS IN ELA AND MATH IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

<http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2910>

ROADMAPS FOR THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS  
(BY GRADE LEVEL)

<http://www.cgcs.org/Page/328>

# Next Generation Assessments

## WHAT IS SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (SBAC)?

Smarter Balanced is an assessment consortium of 26 states who have adopted the Common Core State Standards.

## WHY AN ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM?

Working together with other states who have adopted Common Core to develop new tools to monitor student progress is more efficient and economical.

## WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM CURRENT CA STATE TESTING?

- SBAC measures achievement and growth in English-Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and High School
- SBAC is administered online in an interactive, adaptive format
- Assessment items include questions and performance tasks to measure critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Assessment system is linked to international benchmarks
- The online system will provide clear and timely feedback on student achievement and progress

## PROJECTED TIMELINE

2013-2014: Transition to CA Common Core State Standards, Pilot items, if available

2014-2015: Implement Smarter Balanced Assessments



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