

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Regarding the Common Core Standards

Introduction

10. When will schools and districts be expected to implement the California Common Core Standards?

All schools and districts should continue teaching the existing standards until the new California Common Core Standards system can be phased in. After the State Board of Education adopted the California Common Core Standards on August 2, 2010, the California Department of Education and the State Board of Education began developing a timeline and plan for implementing the Standards. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell, stated that it would take two to four years to implement the standards. He added, "*The implementation plan will address curriculum frameworks, instructional materials, assessments, and accountability measures.*" Now is a good time for schools and districts to begin to familiarize themselves with the California Common Core Standards.

Frameworks and Instructional Materials

11. What is the timeline for new frameworks and instructional materials adoptions?

In the past, California has had a cycle for revising the curriculum frameworks to incorporate new research, standards, and other appropriate information. The frameworks provide guidance about subject area content and standards implementation in the subsequent curriculum adoptions. A new schedule will be developed as the California Common Core Standards implementation plan unfolds. California's *Race to the Top* application indicated that one possible schedule for framework development and curriculum adoption might be:

- o Adopt new frameworks
 - Mathematics (January 2012) and English-Language Arts (January 2014)
- o Adopt new instructional materials
 - Mathematics (August 2014) and English-Language Arts (August 2016)
- o New instructional materials available for schools
 - Mathematics (December 2014) and English-Language Arts (December 2016)

California will be working to identify funds to support this new work.

12. What instructional materials should be used until new materials aligned to the California Common Core Standards are available?

In July 2009, the adoption of instructional materials and the development of new frameworks were suspended until the 2013-14 school year (Assembly Bill X4 2). Districts have the choice to purchase materials from the most recent adoption (2008 English language arts and 2007 mathematics), or continue using materials from the previous adoption cycle to support the academic achievement of our students.

Assessment

13. How will the State's assessment system change to align with the California Common Core Standards?

The California Department of Education and the State Board of Education are developing a plan for implementing the California Common Core Standards that will include changes in state assessments.

California is participating in a 26-state consortium: the Partnership for the Assessment of

and careers. The standards for kindergarten through seventh grade were augmented to prepare eighth grade students for either set of standards.

19. What is the content of the California Common Core Standards for Algebra I?

The new Algebra I standards are a combination of standards from the eighth grade common core, the Algebra content cluster, and California's existing Algebra I standards.

20. California was able to add up to 15% to the Common Core State Standards. What does that include for mathematics?

California added information to the Common Core State Standards for mathematics to address perceived gaps and to ensure that the rigor of California's existing standards would be maintained. For example, California's standards for "calculus" and "advanced placement probability and statistics" were added to the California Common Core Standards. In grades two and five, standards were added to the domain of "Operations and Algebraic Thinking." Substantial sections were added to existing clusters such as "High School Algebra-Seeing Structure in Expression," and "Grade 6 - the number system." In other instances, some language was added to existing standards such as in the Grade 2 Measurement and Data domain, "working with time and money" cluster, standards #7 and #8, and the Grade 4 Geometry domain, standard #2.

The California Common Core Standards for mathematics (including the 15%) are posted on the SCOE website at <http://www.scoe.net/castandards/index.html>. Select "Math Common Core State Standards, adopted by SBE on 8/2/10." The additions are indicated in bold and underlined font.

California Common Core Standards for English Language Arts

21. How are California's existing English language arts standards and the new California Common Core Standards similar?

The content and the organization of California's current standards and the new California Common Core Standards are very similar. For example, the existing ELA standards are organized into four categories called domains (e.g., reading, writing, listening and speaking, and written and oral English-language conventions). The California Common Core Standards are similarly organized into four groups called strands: (1) reading, (2) writing, (3) speaking and listening, and (4) language.

22. Are there differences between California's existing English language arts standards and the new California Common Core Standards?

Yes. For example, the California Common Core Standards are anchored in the College and Career Readiness standards. The California Common Core Standards focus to a greater extent on text complexity, address reading and writing across the curriculum, emphasize informational text, and focus on writing arguments and drawing evidence from sources. The California Common Core Standards build on California's existing standards in reading foundations.

23. California was able to add up to 15% to the CCSS. What does that include for English language arts?

California added information to the Common Core State Standards for English language arts to address perceived gaps and to ensure that the rigor of California's existing standards would be maintained. Some examples include the following additions: "formal

presentations” in the Speaking and Listening strand (grades 1-12); “penmanship” in the Language strand (grades 2-4); “career and consumer documents” in the Writing strand (grade 8); and “analysis of text features in informational text” in the Reading for Informational Text strand (grades 6-12). Additionally, there are minor insertions of specific words to enhance the standards (e.g., “archetypes” and “thesis”).

The California Common Core Standards for English language arts (including the 15%) are posted on the SCOE website at <http://www.scoe.net/castandards/index.html>. Select “ELA Common Core State Standards, adopted by SBE on 8/2/10.” The additions are indicated in bold and underlined font.

24. Which teachers will be implementing the California Common Core Standards for ELA?

There are grade-level ELA standards for kindergarten through grade eight, and sets of standards for grades 9-10 and 11-12. Depending upon the setting, the classroom teacher or English language-arts teacher will implement these standards.

Additionally, the California Common Core Standards for ELA include literacy standards for history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. For kindergarten through fifth grade, the literacy standards are embedded into the ELA standards. For grades six through twelve, there is a separate set of literacy standards. The responsibility for implementing the literacy standards in grades six through twelve is expected to be shared between the ELA teachers and the teachers in other content areas. The literacy standards complement the content standards in those disciplines.

25. Where can districts find assistance to orient their staff to information about the new California Common Core Standards?

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) has prepared resources and training