

Common Core, SBAC, & More

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Fist to Five

How would you rate your familiarity with the Common Core State Standards?

- Fist = Common core? Is that when you share an apple at lunch?
- Five = I had lunch with David Coleman, work for Smarter, Balanced & PARCC, and wrote a CCSS app.

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The Common Core State Standards are...

new goals for what students will know and be able to do in math & literacy, K-12.

- For Math:
 - Mathematical (Content) Standards
 - Standards for Mathematical Practice
- For Literacy/English Language Arts:
 - A comprehensive K-5 section (includes standards for foundational skills)
 - English language/arts, 6-12
 - Literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects, 6-12

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The CCSS claim to be...

- Rigorous, research-based standards
- Designed to prepare the nation's students with the knowledge and skills needed for success in college and the workforce
- Internationally benchmarked to ensure that students will be globally competitive
- A clear and consistent educational framework
- A collaborative effort that builds on the best of current state standards

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A few key ideas right away:

- Multiple sets of standards
- Not a curriculum
- Grade-level standards backward-mapped from college & career readiness standards
- Staircase design
- Emphasis on procedural knowledge, rather than declarative knowledge.

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So Why New Standards?

Really Short Version:
NCLB didn't work.

"Rather than settling on a common standard for school performance and allowing states to meet that standard as they judged best, [NCLB] developed a common timeline for achieving 'universal proficiency' but allowed states to define 'proficiency' in reading and math as they saw fit" (12).

The result? "heavy pressure on states to define 'proficiency' downward" (12)

Thomas B. Fordham Foundation (Chester Finn, Liam Julian, and Michael Petrilli)

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So Why New Standards?

Not So Short Version

- Problem: A lack of uniform, high standards is preventing U.S. from global economic competitiveness.
 - International Rankings
 - Remediation Rates
 - Achievement Gap
 - Unintended Consequences of NCLB
- Solution: Uniform national standards that are backward-mapped from College and Career Readiness.

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So Why New Standards?

Long Version

- The next step in standards-based reform efforts that originated with *A Nation at Risk*.
- Choose your favorite educational reform conspiracy theory.
 - Federal power grab
 - Business takeover of the educational marketplace

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College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards

- The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) commit to developing a set of standards that would help prepare students for success in college and career.
- College and Career Readiness standards released in September 2009.
- These became the foundation for the Common Core State (grade-level) Standards.

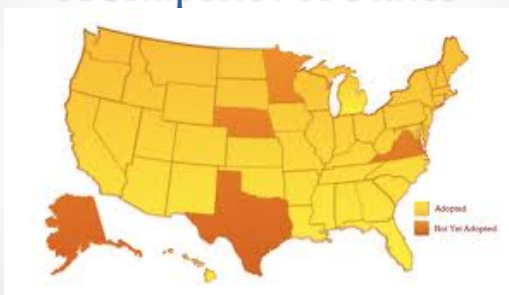
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The Common Core State (grade-level) Standards

- Effort announced June 1, 2009.
- Draft released for public comment on March 10, 2010.
- Final version released on June 2, 2010.
- CCSS adopted by 41 states by January 1, 2011.
- Currently 43 states & DC & 4 territories have adopted.

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A Snapshot of States



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California's History

- August 2, 2010 the California State Board of Education adopted the CCSS in Math & ELA to replace the previous standards.
- California's adoption was largely due to the State's desire to compete for Race to the Top funds.
- California did not win RttT funds.
- After initially joining both assessment consortia, in June 2011, California becomes a "governing" state of Smarter, Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

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What are these new standards like?

Old ELA Standard
Sixth Grade 3.6

- Analyze a range of responses to a literary work and determine the extent to which the literary elements in the work shaped those responses.

New ELA Standard
RL.6.1 (Reading Lit, 6th grade, standard 1)

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

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Capacities of Literate Individuals

- They demonstrate independence.
- They build strong content knowledge.
- They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.
- They comprehend as well as critique.
- They value evidence.
- They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
- They come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

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What's new in ELA?

- Literacy across the curriculum with explicit attention to informational texts.
- Rebalancing literary & informational texts.
- Emphasis on close reading of complex texts.
- Focus on argument and textual evidence.
- Commitment to research & technology.
- Staircase organization.

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What are these new standards like?

Old Math Standard
Sixth grade 1.2

- Interpret and use ratios in different contexts (e.g., batting averages, miles per hour) to show the relative sizes of two quantities, using appropriate notations (a/b , a to b , $a:b$).

New Math Standard
M.6.RP.1

- Understand the concept of a unit rate a/b associated with a ratio $a:b$ with $b \neq 0$, and use rate language in the context of a ratio relationship.

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Standards for Mathematical Practice

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

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What's new in math?

- Focus on reasoning and sense-making.
- Argumentation.
- Balance between conceptual and procedural mathematics.
- Complex problem-solving with multiple strategies.
- Mathematical modeling.
- Using tools, including technology.
- Statistics and probability.
- Integrated or "Traditional" sequence for HS.

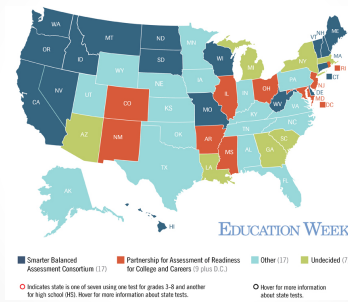
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Assessing the Standards

- Funds from RttT support two consortia of states to develop "next generation of assessments."
- PARCC:
 - 9 states
- Smarter, Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC):
 - 17 States
- Other
 - State efforts
 - ETS, ACT, Etc.
 - 58% of US Students

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Another Snapshot of States



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SBAC Assessment

- A single summative test that is
 - Computer-based.
 - Computer enhanced: Computer affordances allow for new kinds of questions.
 - Computer adaptive: Student responses determine subsequent questions.
- Plus open-ended tasks in math and literacy – Performance-Based Assessments (PBAs).

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SBAC Assessment in California

- Spring 2013: Sampling of schools take pilot SBAC exam.
- Spring 2014: All California students take field test of SBAC.
 - ELA & Math sections, plus one PBA.
 - No individual or school scores will be reported.
- Spring 2015?

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What does it mean for you?

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Turn and talk to a neighbor

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Some ideas

- Reorganized Mathematics course sequence
- A-G Requirements
- Changes in Assessment
 - Both SAT & ACT have announced changes in their tests and reporting.
 - Will college admissions change, too?
- Parents and the Public
 - Common Core dominates the educational conversation.
 - What are you going to say?

Role Play: What would you say to a prospective parent about CCSS? What might you say to your staff?

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A Final Few Thoughts:

- CCSS is explicitly and necessarily pedagogically neutral, but nature (and administrators and entrepreneurs) abhor a vacuum.
- I'm hopeful for the potential of a redefined destination for students, but worried about implementation.
- There is pressure for a single test to do it all.
- This is politically contentious.

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Questions?

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Answers!

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Readings

- For background on the process:
"How Bill Gates pulled off the swift Common Core revolution," *Washington Post*, June 7, 2014.
- For insight into David Coleman, a main author:
"The story behind the SAT overhaul," *New York Times Magazine*, March 6, 2014.
- For a view of the ELA standards:
"Common Core State Standards The promise and the peril in a national palimpsest," *English Journal*, September 2013.
- For a view of the math standards:
"The Common Core Math Standards," *Education Next*, Summer 2012.

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