



The Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

Why are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Important?

- They are a first step toward making sure our children get the best possible education;
- Every grade has clear academic expectations;
- Parents, teachers, and students will work together to reach high standards;
- Our students will be prepared to compete not only with their peers here at home, but also with students around the world, maintaining America's competitive edge.

What standards are included in the Common Core?

- English-language arts and mathematics were the subjects chosen for the Common Core since they teach skills upon which all other subjects depend;
- English-language arts standards address literacy across disciplines, including science, social studies, and technical subjects;

How are the CCSS different from previous standards used in our schools?

- The CCSS have been evaluated to make sure that they are rigorous;
- Use of the CCSS requires students to use higher order thinking skills such as analyzing and problem solving ;
- Students will be required to use strong communication skills, which will help them to prepare for higher education and the world of work.

The Common Core Standards are more rigorous than previous Connecticut State standards.



Committed to the success of every child

Do the CCSS address learning needs of all students?

- The CCSS address the learning needs of K—12 students, including those who are identified as English Language Learners and those with learning disabilities;
- Alternative assessments based on the CCSS are being developed for two groups of students:
 - Students with limited English proficiency
 - Students with the most severe cognitive disabilities.

How are the CCSS being implemented?

- The standards clearly lay out what students should learn, but allow schools and teachers to decide how to best help students reach their academic goals.
- The standards offer an opportunity for states to work together to dramatically improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of state assessments.
- Districts will develop richer, more authentic assessments so that they can measure what students know; teachers will use these assessments to improve teaching and learning.
- The CCSS will allow states the opportunity to share their best ideas, practices and resources as they prepare teachers to successfully implement these new, more rigorous standards.

The Common Core State Standards address the learning needs of ALL students K-12 including English Language Learners and those identified with learning disabilities.

Looking for more information?

<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

<http://www.pta.org>

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2618&q=322592>

<http://portal.norwalkps.org/curriculum/ccss/Pages/default.aspx>

What are the Common Core State Standards?

- The CCSS are a set of consistent, high quality academic benchmarks , (K-12) that clearly define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each school year;
- These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education so that they graduate from high school able to succeed in college and enter a career;
- The standards were created through a state-led initiative and have been adopted by more than 45 states;
- States adopted the Common Core in their entirety; they added only a limited number of additional standards in English-language arts and mathematics.

The standards are:

- Aligned with college and workforce expectations;
- Clear, understandable, and consistent;
- Rigorous in content and the application of knowledge through higher-order thinking skills;
- Built on the strengths that were already part of previous state standards;
- Informed by standards in other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- Evidence-based

The English-Language Arts Standards

- Students will read a wide variety of literature including classic and contemporary works. By reading challenging informational texts, in a range of subjects, students will build knowledge, gain insights, and broaden their perspectives.
- The standards require all students to study a variety of literary genre, including classic myths and stories from around the world, documents that form the foundation for the United States government, and works of literature that were the first of their kind in different fields of study.
- States and local districts will decide how to teach their own local information.

Students will read challenging texts.

They will read much more non-fiction than they do now.

Children will learn to read informational texts in all the subjects they study in school, including science, social studies and technology.

Getting to the Core...



The Mathematics Standards

- Students will study fewer topics in greater depth;
- The standards stress both procedural skills, and conceptual understanding to make sure students are learning and absorbing the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels of mathematics; they will be able to answer how and why questions when they solve mathematical problems;
- The K-5 standards provide students with a solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, and decimals, which helps young students successfully understand and use more demanding math concepts and procedures. They will move into practical applications of these core math principles.
- Middle School students will be prepared to carry out hands-on learning in geometry, algebra, probability and statistics, studying algebra in grade 8.
- Rigorous high school standards prepare students to apply mathematics to novel situations, the way college students and employees regularly do.
- High school standards emphasize mathematical modeling – the use of mathematics and statistics to analyze real life scenarios; students will improve mathematical decision-making skills.

Writing

Students will be expected to use writing skills in a variety of formats:

- Starting in the earliest grades, they will learn to state their opinions using logical arguments, accurate information and good evidence;
- Based on independent research, students will produce both short focused projects (such as those commonly required in the workplace) and longer term in-depth pieces;
- Across the grade levels, the CCSS contains exemplars of student writing to help establish adequate performance levels in writing arguments and informational/explanatory texts.

Speaking and Listening

- The standards require that students present and evaluate increasingly complex information, ideas and evidence through listening and speaking as well as through various media platforms.
- Vocabulary and conventions are treated in their own strand not because skills in these areas should be handled in isolation, but because their use extends across reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Technology

- Skills related to media use (both critical analysis and production of media), are integrated throughout the standards.

Assessment

- CCSS assessments are focused on developing richer, more authentic measures of student learning. They are focused on providing more precise information for teachers to use to improve learning.