

## What about New Assessments?

California is a governing member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), one of two federally funded consortia developing new assessments aligned to the CCSS. You may learn more about California's participation in the SBAC and subscribe to the California Department of Education SBAC listserv at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp>. Additionally, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, is consulting with specific stakeholder groups in developing recommendations for the reauthorization of the statewide pupil assessment system, which includes a plan for transitioning to a system of high-quality assessments.

## California's Common Core Implementation Plan

The Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California is a living document approved by the State Board of Education in March 2012. The plan, available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>, identifies the major phases and activities involved in implementing the CCSS and serves as the blueprint for remodeling the education system to support student success in career and college. The document includes several appendices, including a template organized around the significant milestones of CCSS systems implementation that local educational agencies may use as a starting point for developing their own local plans.

## Resources for Administrators

The following Web resources provide the most current information from the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site and are continuously updated. The first reference is the main CDE CCSS Web Page, which includes the Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California, the Significant Milestones Timeline, and a Learn More section that provides additional links to audience specific information.

### California Department of Education

#### CCSS Web Page:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

#### Resources for Educators:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/educators.asp#administratorresources>

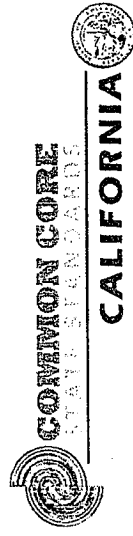
#### SMARTER Balanced Assessment

#### Consortium Information:

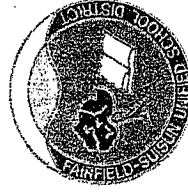
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterb/aligned.asp>



Brochure developed by the  
California Department of Education  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/documents/commstoolkit.doc>  
Communications Toolkit



# Common Core State Standards and Administrators



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## Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a practical way to prepare children and youth for the challenges of a constantly changing world – by learning step-by-step the real-world skills they need for college and career.

Despite the state's budget problems, California must move forward now so that all children – no matter where they come from or where they live – receive a world-class education that's consistent from school to school, and graduate ready to contribute to the future of our state and our country.

California is putting these standards to work, using them as the **foundation for remodeling our education system**. The standards keep the best of what we have, but replace outdated ways of learning with a clear focus on the key knowledge and skills students need, and provide teachers the time to teach them well.

Like an orchestra learning a challenging new symphony, bringing these standards to life in our schools will take time and energy, and the costs must be managed over time. These standards **provide every part of our education system the same sheet music** – with the clear goals of career and college readiness for all. And we all have a part to play.

## A Shift in Teaching and Learning

### Shifts in English Language Arts (ELA)

*These apply to content area (social studies, science, and technical subject) teachers as well as to English teachers.*

- 1) Building knowledge through **content-rich nonfiction** and **informational texts** in addition to literature
- 2) Reading and writing grounded in **evidence from the text**
- 3) Regular practice with **complex text** and its **academic vocabulary** (words like *commit* and *synthesize*)

### Shifts in Mathematics

- 1) **Focus:** 2–4 critical areas focused on deeply in each grade
- 2) **Coherence:** Concepts logically connected from one grade to the next and linked to other major topics within the grade
- 3) **Rigor:** Fluency with arithmetic, application of knowledge to real world situations, and deep understanding of mathematical concepts

### Transitioning: What Administrators Can Do Now

Although CCSS-aligned summative assessments will not be fully operational until the 2014–15 school year, we can start to make changes to instruction that will prepare students for the CCSS while helping them succeed on current state assessments. In order to lay the groundwork for a smooth transition to the new standards, administrators can:

- **Inform teachers and parents** of the new standards in ELA and math
- Begin to **review instructional materials and curriculum** for alignment to the CCSS
- Assess **professional development needs** and begin to provide opportunities for teachers
- In English language arts (ELA):
  - Help teachers incorporate into instruction more **text-dependent questions** that require students to read a text closely to determine what it says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it
  - Start to integrate more **non-fiction and complex texts** into classroom instruction
  - Focus writing instruction **substantially on writing to inform and structure an argument**, not only writing stories
- In mathematics:
  - Focus instruction more on the **few key topics** emphasized in each grade in the standards
  - Emphasize **problem-solving** and **real-world application**