

What Teachers Can Do Now, cont'd.

- Inform colleagues and parents that there are new standards in ELA and math
- Begin to review **CURRENT instructional materials and curriculum** for alignment to the CCSS
- Assess your **professional learning needs** and seek out and participate in activities that will support your professional learning

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/smarterbalaunched.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.

Resources for Teachers

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>

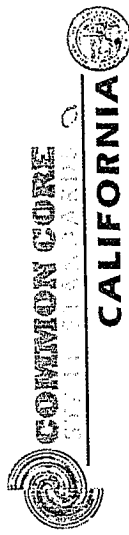
SMARTER Balanced Assessment

Consortium Information:

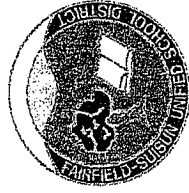
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalaunched.asp>



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 Teachers



Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
2490 Hilborn Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
707-399-5000
www.fsusd.org

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.

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 Teachers 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, teachers can:

Review and understand how the new standards are similar to and different from California's 1997 content standards

- Immediate considerations for English language arts (ELA) instruction:
 - Clarify with colleagues the implications for teaching more informational text and determine common strategies for implementation across the grade levels.
 - 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, and structure lessons so that students read more non-fiction and complex texts
 - Focus writing instruction substantially on writing to inform and structure an argument, not only writing stories
- In mathematics:
 - Discuss the mathematical practices with colleagues and discuss what evidence of student demonstrations of these practices might inform your instructional designs and activities
 - Focus instruction more on the few key topics emphasized in each grade in the standards
 - Emphasize problem-solving and real-world application
- Meet with your grade levels, departments, and school leadership team to discuss how your district and school is transitioning to the CCSS