

An Introduction to the CCSS for ELA November 9, 2013

Objectives

- Help parents understand:
 - The new Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy
 - College and Career readiness and why it matters
 - The shifts needed to be successful with the Common Core Standards
 - How they can help their children at home

Hopes and Dreams

- Describe your child as the ideal high school graduate
 - What skills do they have?
 - What do they know?



What are the Common Core Standards?

- We are now going to view a video to explain what the Common Core Standards are:
 - http://vimeo.com/51933492 (English/ inglés)
 - http://vimeo.com/51947947 (Spanish/ español)
- Turn and Talk
 - Share your reactions to the video



"These Standards are not intended to be new names for old ways of doing business. They are a call to take the next step... It is time to recognize that standards are not just promises to our children, but promises we intend to keep."

> -- The Common Core State Standards in Math, page 5

Activity: What is college readiness?

- At your table, discuss:
 - What does college-readiness look like?
 - When is a student is ready for college?
 - What do children need to learn to be ready for college?
 - How can parents help?

College and Career Readiness

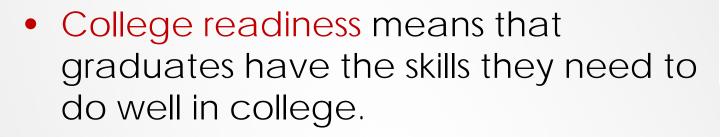
The new standards will get students ready for success in college and the workforce...





...but what does that mean?

College Readiness





- "College" doesn't just mean a four-year degree. It can mean any program that leads to a degree or certificate.
- Being "ready" means that students graduate from high school prepared to take credit-bearing courses in college.

Career Readiness



- Career readiness means that high school graduates are qualified for and able to do well in long-term careers.
- "Career" doesn't just mean a job. It means a profession that lets graduates succeed at a job they enjoy and earn a competitive wage.
- Research has shown that the skills needed for college and family-wage careers are the same.

The new standards will...

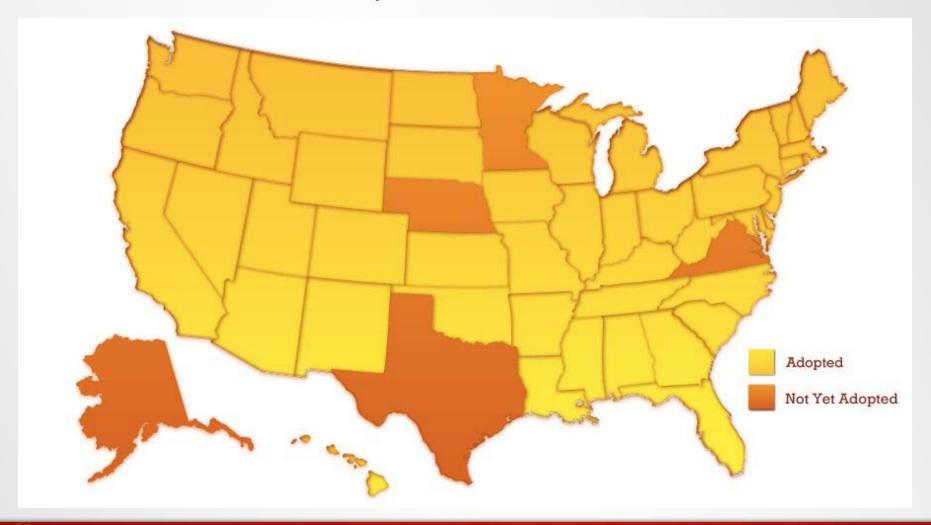
- Prepare students to succeed in college and the workforce
- Ensure that every child—regardless of race, ethnicity or zip code—is held to the same high standards and learns the same material
- Provide educators with a clear, focused roadmap for what to teach and when



What are the Common Core Standards?

- A single set of clear standards for English language arts and mathematics
- A tool to help students and parents set clear and realistic goals for success
- A first step in providing young people with the high-quality education that will prepare them for success in college and careers

States that adopted the Common Core



What's different in the new standards?

English Language Arts/Literacy:

- Focus on non-fiction, careful reading
- Discuss reading and write using evidence
- Increase academic vocabulary

6 Shifts in ELA

Read as much non fiction as fiction

Learn about the world by reading

Read more challenging material closely

Discuss reading using evidence

Write nonfiction using evidence

Increase academic vocabulary

Shift 1: Read as much non-fiction as fiction

Students must	Parents can
 Read more non-fiction 	 Supply more non-fiction
 Know the ways non- 	text
fiction can be put	 Read non-fiction texts
together	aloud or with your child
 Enjoy and discuss the 	 Have fun with non-
details of non-fiction	fiction in front of them

Shift 2: Learn about the world by reading

Get smart in Science and Social Studies through reading Handle "primary source" documents Get smarted through texts Parents can... Supply series of texts on topics of interest Find books that explain Discuss non-fiction texts and the ideas within

Shift 3:

Read more complex material carefully

Carcially	
Students must	Parents can
 Re-read Read material at comfort level AND work with more challenging stuff Unpack text Handle frustration and keep pushing 	 Provide more challenging texts AND provide texts they WANT to read and can read comfortably Know what is grade level appropriate Read challenging stuff with them Show that challenging stuff is worth unpacking

Shift 4: Discuss reading using evidence

Students must	Parents can
 Find evidence to support their arguments Form judgments Become scholars Discuss what the author is "up to" 	 Talk about text Demand evidence in every day discussion/disagreements Read aloud or read the same book and discuss with evidence

Shift 5: Write Non-Fiction Using Evidence

Students must	Parents can
 Make arguments in writing using evidence Compare multiple texts in writing Write well 	 Encourage writing at home Write "books" together and use evidence/ details

Shift 6: Academic Vocabulary

Students must	Parents can
 Learn the words that they can use in college and career Get smarter at using the "language of power" 	 Read often and constantly with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and children Read multiple books about the same topic Let your kids see you reading Talk and read to your children Listen to your children Sing with your children (make up silly rhymes and word games with your children)

A Classroom Example



So, what can parents really do to help?



Parent support can help students succeed

By staying involved, informed and engaged, parents can help students be successful





Ways parents can help

- Read with your children
- Review and discuss their homework
- Build Background Knowledge
- Communicate with their teachers
- Attend public meetings to learn more
- Learn about the standards and how they affect your child's education and school
- Look through your child's backpack each afternoon

Types of Read Alouds

- Books
- Magazines
- Internet Articles
- Close Captioning (mute your T.V.)
- Menus
- Directions
- Recipes

Read Aloud to Them

- You read to them, they listen
 - Ask questions
 - Connect the reading to their life

Read Aloud with Them

- Choral read (all read together)
- Echo read (I read a sentence, you read the same sentence)
- I read a sentence, you read the next sentence

Background Knowledge

 Background knowledge is what a student already knows about a topic or subject. The more he or she know, the better they will understand the new learnings.

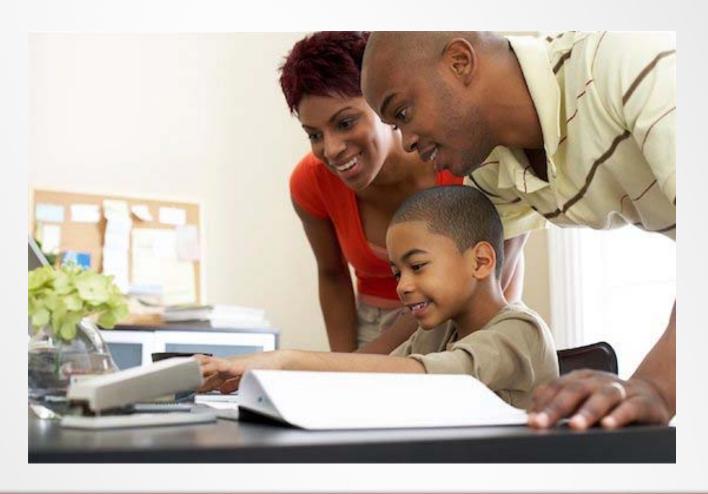
Your help in building background knowledge

- If the topic is animals, how can you build your child's knowledge of the subject?
 - Where can you take them?
 - What can they read?
 - Is the internet or technology a possibility?
 - What type of media? TV? Videos?

Activity: After school routines

- Grab a partner and discuss your after school routines. Be specific!
- Ask each other questions:
 - How do you help your child with homework? How closely do you review it?
 - How closely do you review their schoolwork?
 - How often do you communicate with their teachers?
 - How do you celebrate your child's success in school? How do you address poor performance?
 - What is your favorite part of your after school routine?
 Adapted from EngageNY.org and Oregon Dept. of Education

So? What works best?



Backpacks: What you should see

Real-world examples that makes what they're learning in English and math make more sense

Books that are both fiction and nonfiction

Writing assignments that require students to use evidence instead of opinion

Math homework that asks students to write out how they got their answer

Some questions to ask your child

Did you talk about anything you read in class today? Did you use evidence when you talked about what you read?

Did you learn any new words in class today? What do they mean? How do you spell them?

How did you use evidence in school today? Where did you get it?

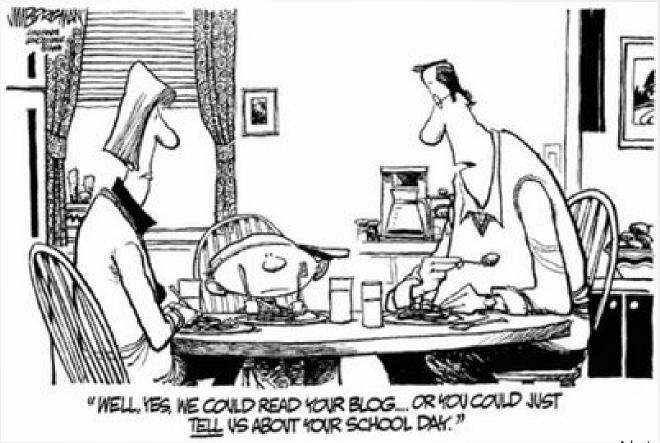
How often did you use math today? How did you use it?

Activity: Talking to your kids about school

At your table, talk about strategies you use to get your kids talking about their days after school

- What questions do you ask?
- Do you discuss what they tell you?
- How do you get them excited to talk?
- What do you do when they refuse to talk?

What works best?



Resources for Parents

- www.cde.ca.gov
- www.pta.org/4446.htm
- www.achievethecore.org
- http://www.cgcs.org/Domain/36

Closing discussion

- What strategies did we discuss today that you think you might use with your children?
- What other information would be helpful to you?
- What other questions do you have?



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