

California Common Core Standards

Introduction to the *English Language Arts* Administrator Snapshot

The content of the California Common Core Standards are similar to our current standards. Outlined below are some of the major shifts and areas of emphasis in the California Common Core Standards seen across all grades, K-12.

SHIFTS

Organization of Writing Applications

While our current standards specifically identify various writing applications, the California Common Core Standards organize the writing applications into three categories:

- Write Opinions (K-5); Write Arguments (6-12)
- Write Informative/Explanatory Texts
- Write Narratives

Shared Responsibility for Teaching the Standards

- A single set of K-5 grade-specific standards
- Two content-area specific sections for grades 6-12
 - One set of standards for English language arts teachers
 - One set of literacy standards for history/social studies, science, and technical subject teachers

AREA OF EMPHASIS

▪ Focus on Text Complexity

Reading standards place equal emphasis on the sophistication of what students read and the skill with which they read.

▪ Emphasis on Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum

The standards emphasize the connection between reading and writing and the purposeful use of each to gain both general knowledge and discipline-specific expertise.

▪ Emphasis on Informational Text

The structure of the standards highlights the emphasis on informational text. In all grades there are an equal number of standards for Literature and Informational Text. Additionally, the set of standards for history/social studies, science, and technical subject teachers in Grades 6-12 allows for students to read an increased percentage of informational text.

The Standards aim to align instruction with the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) framework.

Distribution of Literacy and Informational Passages by Grade in the 2009 NAEP Reading Framework		
Grade	Literacy	Information
4	50%	50%
8	45%	55%
12	30%	70%

▪ Emphasis on Collaborative Conversations

Speaking and Listening standards call for students to engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

▪ Emphasis on Writing Arguments and Drawing Evidence from Sources

The standards place an emphasis on writing to persuade and explain; less emphasis is placed on narrative writing.

▪ Emphasis on Integrating Media Sources

Research and media skills are incorporated in all four strands of the standards rather than being called out as a separate strand.