

SEPTEMBER 2013

The California State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt new standards for both Mathematics and English Language Arts known as the **Common Core State Standards**. The new standards are rigorous, research-based, and designed to prepare every student for success in college and the workforce. The standards are internationally benchmarked to ensure that our students are able to compete with students around the globe. Over 45 states have now adopted the Common Core.



## What students are expected to know and be able to do

### Key Features: English Language Arts

The Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts include standards for use in English Language Arts courses, as well as literacy standards in History-Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

#### **Reading: Text complexity and growth of comprehension**

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

#### **Writing: Text types, responding to reading, and research**

The writing standards acknowledge the fact that while some writing steps (e.g. plan, revise, edit, publish) apply to many types of writing, other skills relate to specific types of writing: arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives.

#### **Speaking and listening: Flexible communication and collaboration**

The speaking and listening standards require students to develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills, in addition to skills needed for formal presentations.

#### **Language: Conventions (grammar), effective use, and vocabulary**

The language standards include the essential “rules” of standard written and spoken English, and also look at language as a matter of craft and making stylistic choices.

### Key Features: Mathematics

The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics include two types of standards: one for mathematical practice (how students apply and extend math principles) and one for mathematical content (what students know about math).

#### **Standards for Mathematical Practice (K-12)**

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

#### **Standards for Mathematical Content**

Define what students should know at the end of each grade level or high school course.



## How you can find out more:

Talk to your child's teacher about how the Common Core State Standards are being implemented in the classroom!

Look out for more parent engagement opportunities at your child's school this fall.

Visit our website for helpful internet links:  
[www.berkeleyschools.net/common-core](http://www.berkeleyschools.net/common-core)

## What to expect this school year:

Shifts for Students Demanded by the Common Core State Standards	STUDENTS WILL	PARENTS CAN
<p><b>In English Language Arts</b></p> <p>Shift 1: Read as much non-fiction as fiction</p> <p>Shift 2: Learn about the world by reading</p> <p>Shift 3: Read more challenging material closely</p> <p>Shift 4: Discuss reading using evidence</p> <p>Shift 5: Write non-fiction using evidence</p> <p>Shift 6: Increase academic vocabulary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Read as much non-fiction as fiction</li> <li>● Handle "primary source" documents</li> <li>● Read material at comfortable and more challenging levels</li> <li>● Find evidence to support their arguments</li> <li>● Compare multiple texts in writing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Show kids fun uses of non-fiction</li> <li>● Find books that explain</li> <li>● Provide challenging texts AND those they want to read</li> <li>● Talk about reading and demand evidence in everyday discussions</li> <li>● Encourage writing at home</li> </ul>
<p><b>In Mathematics</b></p> <p>Shift 1: Focus: Learn more about fewer topics</p> <p>Shift 2: Build skills within and across grades</p> <p>Shift 3: Develop speed and accuracy</p> <p>Shift 4: Really know it; really do it</p> <p>Shift 5: Use it in the real world</p> <p>Shift 6: Think fast AND solve problems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spend more time on fewer concepts.</li> <li>● Keep building on learning year after year.</li> <li>● Spend time practicing a range of problems that utilize similar concepts.</li> <li>● Understand and talk about why the math works.</li> <li>● Apply math in real world situations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Help children MEMORIZE basic math facts.</li> <li>● Provide TIME for your child to work hard on math at home.</li> <li>● Ask your child to DO the math that comes up in daily life.</li> <li>● Make sure your child is PRACTICING the math facts he/she struggles with.</li> </ul>

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Sources: California Department of Education, Education Northwest, EngageNY