



FAQs for Parents

What are the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics?

The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM) are a coherent progression of learning expectations in mathematics designed to prepare K-12 students for college and career success. The CCSSM communicates what is expected of students at each grade level, putting students, parents, teachers, and school administrators on the same page, working toward shared goals. While most states already have mathematics standards in place, they vary widely from state to state in their coverage and level of rigor.

How were the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics developed?

The CCSSM effort was launched in June 2009, through a partnership of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association working together with parents, teachers, school administrators, and experts from across the country. National and international research, evidence, and standards – including standards from countries that are often recognized for high quality education – informed the writing of the CCSSM. After the public was given a chance to comment on the suggested changes, the final version of the CCSSM was released in June 2010.

How do current mathematics standards compare to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics at each grade level?

The new standards (CCSSM) have two parts: the Standards for Mathematical Practice and the grade level content standards. The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe how a student should engage with mathematics in the classroom in kindergarten through grade 12. As the mathematics student increases in maturity and content knowledge, his or her ability to interact in mathematics will deepen as described in the Standards for Mathematical Practice.

Some of the topics traditionally taught at certain grade levels have not changed. Comparing standards nationally and internationally, the content will be taught at a conceptual or understanding, level, not just





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a computational ability level. Therefore, understanding mathematics at a deeper level and knowing the computational algorithms help students to become confident problem solvers.

What do the new Common Core State Standards for Mathematics mean for my child?

Your student will:

- make connections in mathematics from one topic to another. In the past students often thought that there were few, if any, connections in mathematics and did not use what they already understood to make sense of the new material
- practice communicating their thinking strategies and learn to analyze strategies of others for sense making
- be able to make sense of problems and know that their answer is reasonable
- learn to model his or her thinking to construct a strong argument and communicate this argument with clarity

Can my child still take Algebra I in 8th grade?

Yes, students can still take Algebra I in eighth grade. The objective in California is for students who are ready take Algebra I by their eighth grade. For this to happen your child needs to be in an accelerate program. One option for acceleration could be for your child to complete the content for grades 6, 7, and 8 in grades 6 and 7. This would allow the option to take Algebra I in eighth grade.

How can I help my child with the new Common Core State Standards for Mathematics?

Continue to talk to your child about what they are learning. Talk to the teachers regularly about your child and how he or she is doing. Ask your child's teacher for suggestions on how to support school work at home.

My child loves math, but he/she does not like to write. Why is there writing in math?

The ability to communicate is critical for college and career. The objective is for students to be college and career ready. Also, having the skills to problem solve and do math is only one part. Another important part is developing communication skills to explain the mathematics.



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How will the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics be assessed?

California is a member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). SBAC has been awarded federal funding to develop an assessment system aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Different types of assessments to measure students' progress during and at the end of the school year will be designed for students in grades 3-12. These assessments will be used in the 2014-2015 school year and will take the place of the California Standards Test (CST). Sample test items can be found at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>.

Will the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics affect my child's opportunity to take AP mathematics courses in high school?

Your child will still have the opportunity to take AP mathematics courses in high school. In order to do this, it is important for your child to have some acceleration in mathematics either in middle school or high school.

Do the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics meet the a-g requirements?

Yes, the Common Core Standards for mathematics meet the a-g requirements. The University of California's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) is supportive of schools in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics.

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)
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