Introducing the Common Core to Parents

Patricia Kardambikis Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent
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Three-Minute Video Explaining the Common Core State Standards

http://vimeo.com/51933492
What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards set grade-by-grade learning expectations for students in grades K-12 for Mathematics and for English Language Arts and Literacy.

While states have had standards for more than 15 years, this set of standards is more focused on preparing students for success in college and career. They set clear, consistent and high learning goals.
Why is this important for Students, Teachers, and Parents?

College and work

Consistent expectations

Clear, focused guide
What Should I Expect with CCSS?

More time to **focus** on preparing students for college and career readiness.
Whereas a curriculum is a highly detailed, longitudinal plan of learning and instruction, standards simply specify what children at each grade level should know and be able to do. In that regard, standards are just one piece of a curriculum, along with textbooks, lesson plans, assessments and other components of teaching and learning.

**Common Core: Standards, Not Curriculum**
The Shifts in ELA/Literacy

1. Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction

2. Reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational

3. Regular practice with complex text and its academic language
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non Text-Dependent</th>
<th>Text-Dependent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In “Casey at the Bat,” Casey strikes out. Describe a time when you failed at something.</td>
<td>What makes Casey’s experiences at bat humorous?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Dr. King discusses nonviolent protest. Discuss, in writing, a time when you wanted to fight against something that you felt was unfair.</td>
<td>What can you infer from King’s letter about the letter that he received?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In “The Gettysburg Address” Lincoln says the nation is dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Why is equality an important value to promote?</td>
<td>“The Gettysburg Address” mentions the year 1776. According to Lincoln’s speech, why is this year significant to the events described in the speech?</td>
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How can you help your child in literacy?

- Ask your child specific questions about what they read.
- Encourage children to read, then write and speak about, nonfiction text such as newspapers, magazines, and biographies.
- Encourage children to research topics of interest and read series that relate to a central topic.
- Have your child follow step by step instructions or a set of directions in order to accomplish a task, such as building a sandcastle or operating a game.
The Shifts in Mathematics

1. **Focus:** Focus strongly where the standards focus

2. **Coherence:** Think across grades, and link to major topics

3. **Rigor:** In major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity
Traditional U.S. Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number and Operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement and Geometry</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra and Functions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
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</table>
New Common Core Approach

Operations and Algebraic Thinking → Expressions and Equations → Algebra

Number and Operations—Base Ten → The Number System → Algebra

Number and Operations—Fractions → The Number System

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School
How can you help your child in math?

- Help children practice their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.

- Encourage children not to give up while solving problems, to build stamina and develop their critical thinking skills. Don’t give them the answers - ask them to think of different ways they can solve problems.

- Have children illustrate the math they were thinking in their head and discuss it out loud.

- Have children apply their math knowledge to a real-world scenario at home, such as doubling a recipe or calculating the area of a room.
What does this look like?

OLD: Grade 5 state math

Pierre is making an apple crumb pie using the items below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPLE CRUMB PIE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/3 cup flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3 cup sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 cup butter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much total sugar must Pierre use to make the pie crumb and filling?

F 7/12 cup
G 2/6 cup
H 3/4 cup
J 2/3 cup

NEW: Common Core grade 5 math

Tito and Luis are stuffed with pizza! Tito ate one-fourth of a cheese pizza. Tito ate three-eighths of a pepperoni pizza. Tito ate one-half of a mushroom pizza. Luis ate five-eighths of a cheese pizza. Luis ate the other half of the mushroom pizza. All the pizzas were the same size. Tito says he ate more pizza than Luis because Luis did not eat any pepperoni pizza. Luis says they each ate the same amount of pizza. Who is correct? Show all your mathematical thinking.
Additional Resources

Council of the Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps:

- Math
  
  http://www.cgcs.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=244

- ELA / Literacy
  
  http://www.cgcs.org/Page/328

- National Parent Teachers Association (PTA)
  
  http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583

- Achieve the Core
  
  www.achievethecore.org

- Common Core State Standards Text Exemplars
  
  http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf