

Common Core State Standards

The Academic Baseline for Success in College, Careers and Life



Key Messages

- 1 The Common Core State Standards ensure that all students have greater opportunities and access to the careers of their choice. We need a K–12 education system that imparts the **knowledge and skills most valued by employers and higher education.**
- 2 The Common Core State Standards focus on fewer concepts in mathematics and English language arts/literacy so that **students can learn at greater depth and mastery.** The standards depart from the practice of going “a mile wide and an inch deep.”
- 3 The Common Core State Standards **build on the curricular improvements already achieved in Stamford Public Schools** over the last several years. Our district is well-positioned for this next level of work.

What are the Common Core State Standards?

- The Common Core State Standards are K–12 academic standards in mathematics and English language arts/literacy.
- They were developed by states, and states voluntarily choose to adopt them.
- They are aligned to the expectations of two- and four-year colleges and have been internationally benchmarked.
- The Common Core State Standards help ensure comparability across states, districts, and schools, mitigating challenges with student and teacher mobility.
- Standards are a critical first step in improving America’s education system. They provide the necessary foundation for local decisions around curriculum, assessments, and instruction.
- Assessments will be implemented in the 2014-15 school year. In Connecticut, these assessments will be developed by Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

What is Different About the Common Core?

ELA/Literacy

- Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction
- Reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational
- Regular practice with complex text and its academic language

Mathematics

- Focus strongly where the Standards focus
- Coherence: Think across grades and link to major topics within grades
- Rigor: in major topics, pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application
- The Common Core State Standards will ensure that teachers teach and students learn the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, including communications skills, perseverance in problem solving, technical reading and writing, literacy across disciplines, and the most important mathematical skills.

Learn more about the Common Core at www.stamfordpublicschools.org and www.achievethecore.org