Will There Be New Tests for the New Standards?

Yes, California is a governing member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). The consortium includes 25 states. As a group, they are developing new tests that will measure student progress toward career and college readiness. You may learn more about the new tests and California's participation in the SBAC at **www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp.** A separate brochure dedicated to assessment is under development and will be available soon.

California's CCSS Implementation Plan

The Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California is a living document approved by the State Board of Education in March 2012. The plan, available at **http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/**, identifies the major phases and activities involved in implementing the CCSS and serves as the blueprint for remodeling the education system to support student success in career and college.

Resources for Parents and Guardians

The following Web resources provide the most current information from the California Department of Education (CDE) Web Site and are continuously updated. The first reference is the main CDE CCSS Web Page which includes the Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California, the Significant Milestones Timeline, and a "Learn More" section that provides additional links to audience specific information.

California Department of Education CCSS Web Page:
http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Info.:
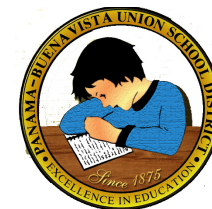http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp

K-8 Calif.'s Common Core Standards Parent Handbook:
http://www.ccsesa.org/sysadmin/documents/
CCSParentHandbook_020411.doc

This handbook, created by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) in consultation with the California State PTA, gives parents an introduction to California's CCSS and a summary of what students are expected to learn as they advance.

Content Developed by the California Department of Education

A guide for
Parents &
Community Members

COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE
PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

Panama-Buena Vista Union School District
4200 Ashe Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313
(661) 831-8331

Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a practical way to prepare children for the challenges of a constantly changing world – by learning step-by-step the real-world skills they need for career and college.

Despite the state's budget problems, California must move forward now so that all children – no matter where they come from or where they live – receive a world-class education that's consistent from school to school, and graduate ready to contribute to the future of our state and our country.

California is putting these standards to work, using them as the foundation for **remodeling our education system.** The standards keep the best of what we have, but replace traditional ways of learning with a clear focus on the key knowledge and skills students need, and provide teachers the time to teach them well.

Preparing Students for Career & College

All students graduating from our public school system as life-long learners will have the skills and knowledge necessary to take their place in the 21st century global economy.

• The new standards are designed to be relevant in the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills students need for success in both higher education and career.

• Our communities will be stronger if students graduate with the skills and knowledge needed in today's job market.

A Shift in Teaching and Learning

To prepare students for college and career, there are several shifts from the current standards to the CCSS:

Shifts in Language Arts

• Students will be reading more informational texts. By 12th grade the ratio will be 70% informational text and 30% narrative literature. Texts will also be more difficult at each grade level than texts students currently read.

• Reading will require students to increase their knowledge about different subjects that they read about including current events, history/social studies, science and technical subjects. Students will answer questions and do tasks that require them to find and analyze information and evidence from a variety of sources including the internet.

• Students will learn to collaborate to improve understanding and solve problems.

• Three types of writing will be taught: opinion/argument, informational and narrative. Writing, opinion/argument and informational, will be based more on knowledge gained from a variety of sources than personal experience and opinion.

Shifts in Mathematics

Focus: The Common Core Standards focus on fewer topics each year so they may be explored in depth rather than covering as much ground as possible. By focusing deeply on 2 to 4, rather than 8 to 12, critical areas per year, students will develop stronger foundations.

Coherence: The Common Core Standards introduce and develop math topics in a logical sequence and that these topics "fit" together within a grade level and from grade to grade building complexity as students mature. Because the Common Core Standards have focus, teachers will begin to count on student understanding of a topic and be able to build on it rather than repeat it. This will allow students to become more mathematically sophisticated each year. For example, 8th grade students will be asked to design a city park and calculate costs of the project rather than to simply find the area of a rectangle.

Rigor: The new standards are more rigorous and will require that students understand the concepts behind the procedures and be able to apply them in meaningful ways. Today's second grade students are taught a procedure to add or subtract 3-digit whole numbers. The new standards will require a second grade student to use place value and properties of numbers to explain why the procedure works. Algebra students will not only be asked to solve complex real-world problems, they will be required to construct a viable argument to justify their method.