

# A Parent's Guide to 21st Century Learning



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October, 2013*

# Key Questions for Parents

1. What are the Common Core State Standards and how were they developed?
2. What changes can I expect to see in instruction, and how can I support my child's learning through these changes?
3. How is assessment changing as we transition to the Common Core State Standards?

# Part 1



*What are the Common Core State Standards and how were they developed?*

# What are the Common Core State Standards?



- The Common Core State Standards are a rigorous set of learning goals that describe what students should know and be able to do in each grade and in each subject.
- The Common Core standards have been adopted by 45 states.
- The standards at each grade level build toward competency in College and Career Readiness Anchor standards, which describe the skills needed by all 21<sup>st</sup> century graduates



Adapted from the California Department of Education *CCSS Flyer*, Nov 2012



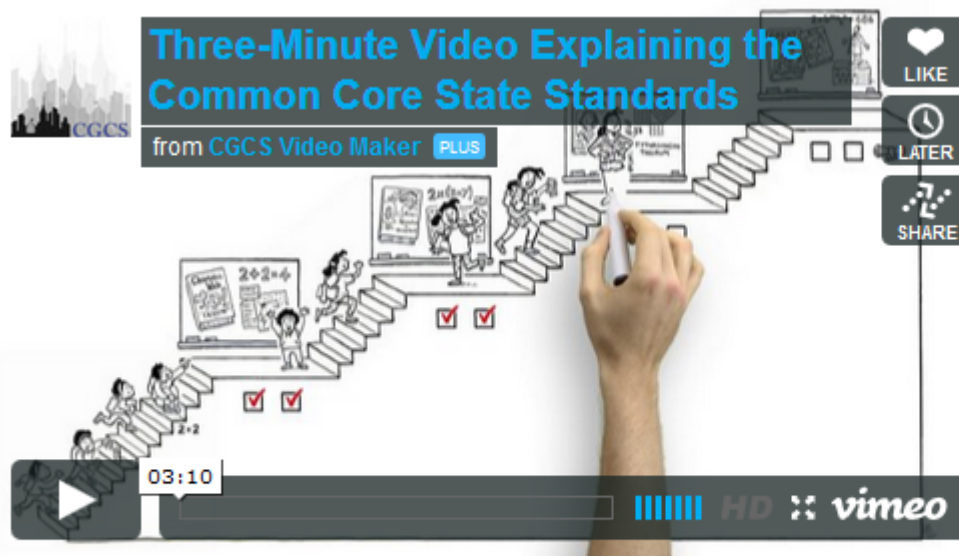
# Who Created the Common Core State Standards?



- The Common Core Initiative is a voluntary, state-led effort coordinated by the *Council of Chief State School Officers* and the *National Governors Association*.
- The CCSS were built upon the best state standards and internationally benchmarked to ensure that our students are able to compete with students around the globe.
- Parents, educators, content experts, researchers, national organizations, and community groups from forty-eight states, two territories, and the District of Columbia all participated in the development of the standards.

# Common Core Video

Watch this video overview of the Common Core from [The Council of the Great City Schools](#)



This three-minute video explains how the Common Core State Standards will help students achieve at high levels and help them learn what they need to know to get to graduation and beyond.

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# CCSS Transition

Although California's 1997 Standards share many similarities with the Common Core State Standards, it will take several years to fully implement the new standards.

Adapted from the California Department of Education *CCSS Flyer*, Nov 2012



# Part 2



*What changes can I expect to see in instruction, and how can I support my child's learning through these changes?*



# Building Upward from a Strong Foundation

Common Core instruction will build upon strong foundational skills and current successful instructional practices to help students reach higher levels of achievement.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning**

**Rigorous New Expectations**

**Successful Teaching Practices**

**Instruction in Foundational Skills**

# Increased Rigor in Reading

- Students at all grade levels will build knowledge through increased reading of content rich, non-fiction.
- Students will be asked to read closely, and to answer questions that require them to refer back to the text.



# Increased Rigor in Writing

- Students will be asked to use writing to communicate their learning in all subject areas.
- Students at all grade levels will be taught to write non-fiction compositions such as:
  - Reports that draw information from a variety of sources.
  - Essays that defend an opinion or create and support an argument with evidence.



# English Language Arts

## Example

From *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects, Appendix B, Sample Performance Tasks for Informational texts, Grades 3-5*

- Students quote accurately and explicitly from Leslie Hall's, *Seeing Eye to Eye*, to explain statements they make and ideas they infer regarding sight and light.



# How Can I Support my Child in Language Arts?

- Encourage non-fiction reading including books, magazines, newspapers, and internet resources. Ask questions that require your child to look back to the text.
- Capitalize on your child's inclination to argue or debate by challenging your child to provide evidence that will convince you.
- Model the habit of gathering evidence by using the internet, the library, and real world experiences.



# Increased Rigor in Mathematics

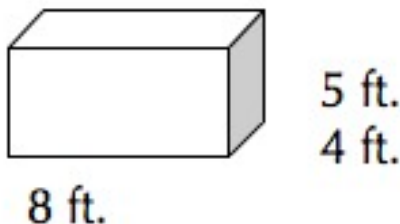
- Students will apply math concepts to real world situations.
- Students will be asked to try multiple approaches to solving a problem.
- Students will communicate their mathematical thinking by describing how they solved a problem.



# Example Math Problem

Cari is the lead architect for the city's new aquarium. All of the tanks in the aquarium will be rectangular prisms where the side lengths are whole numbers.

- a. Cari's first tank is 4 feet wide, 8 feet long and 5 feet high. How many cubic feet of water can her tank hold?



- b. Cari knows that a certain species of fish needs at least 240 cubic feet of water in their tank. Create 3 separate tanks that hold exactly 240 cubic feet of water. (*Ex: She could design a tank that is 10 feet wide, 4 feet long and 6 feet in height.*)
- c. In the back of the aquarium, Cari realizes that the ceiling is only 10 feet high. She needs to create a tank that can hold exactly 100 cubic feet of water. Name one way that she could build a tank that is not taller than 10 feet.

*From Illustrative Mathematics, Institute for Math and Education grade 5*

# What Can I Do to Support My Child in Mathematics ?

- Continue to help your child master basic math facts and procedures.
- Involve your child in real life math problem solving situations such as budgeting, investing, cooking, and project planning.
- Be open to multiple ways to solve a problem.
- Praise persistence in problem solving.
- Ask your child's teacher for help if you feel he or she is struggling.



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

Teachers will prepare students of all ages for the expectations of college and careers by infusing instruction with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

Communication



Collaboration



Critical thinking



Creativity



[Teaching Channel: Learn by Leading](#)



# How Can I Support 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills?



- Communication- Make time to have regular focused conversations with your child on a variety of topics.
- Collaboration- Praise teamwork and share your own experiences working with others.
- Critical Thinking- encourage your child to question and verify claims they may hear in advertisements, or on the internet.
- Creativity- value your child's unique efforts and innovations, even if they don't work out perfectly.



# Part 3



How is assessment  
changing as we transition  
to the Common Core  
State Standards?

# A New Testing System

- A new testing system for California, The California Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress, CAASP will replace STAR.
- The cornerstone of CAASPP is a new computer based assessment system called **Smarter Balanced** which will be used by 27 states.



# Smarter Balanced Assessments

- Will be administered to students in grades 3-11 in English Language Arts and Math of the on a computer or tablet during the last three months of the school year.
- For 2014 Smarter Balanced tests will be undergoing field testing. All OUSD students in grades 3-8, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students at Villa Park and Canyon High schools will be participating in language arts and math tests.
- No individual or school wide results will be made available for 2014.

# How are Smarter Balanced tests different from past tests ?

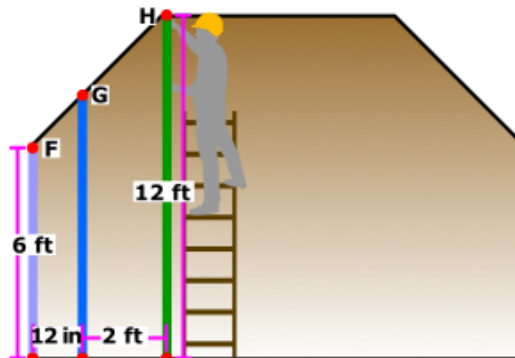
- Many questions will require a written response.
- Many questions will require deeper levels of student knowledge and skill.
- Students will need basic computer skills, such as drawing, moving text, highlighting, and typing to be successful.
- In depth Performance Tasks will be included, for example writing an article after reviewing three sources, planning a garden with specific measurements.

# HS Mathematics Example

43057



A construction worker is using wooden beams to reinforce the back wall of a room.



Determine the height, in feet, of the beam that ends at point G. Explain how you found your answer.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Example

43010



The following is a rough draft of a paragraph that a student is writing for the school newspaper about why there should be a longer school day. The draft needs more details to support the student's reasons for having a longer school day.

## Why There Should Be a Longer School Day

Schools should have a longer school day for students. First, students could learn more about different subjects if the school day were longer. Also, students could get extra help from teachers. More hours in class each day would also mean more vacations scattered throughout the year!

Now look at the following daily schedule for a school that has switched to a longer school day.

8:00	Morning Announcements
8:20	Reading Language Arts
9:30	Foreign Language
10:30	Morning Recess
10:45	Mathematics
11:45	Lunch
12:45	History
1:45	Art or Music
2:15	Afternoon Recess
2:45	Science
3:30	Homework Preparation
3:45	After-School Tutoring or Sports



Revise the paragraph by adding details from the daily schedule that help support the reasons for having a longer school day.



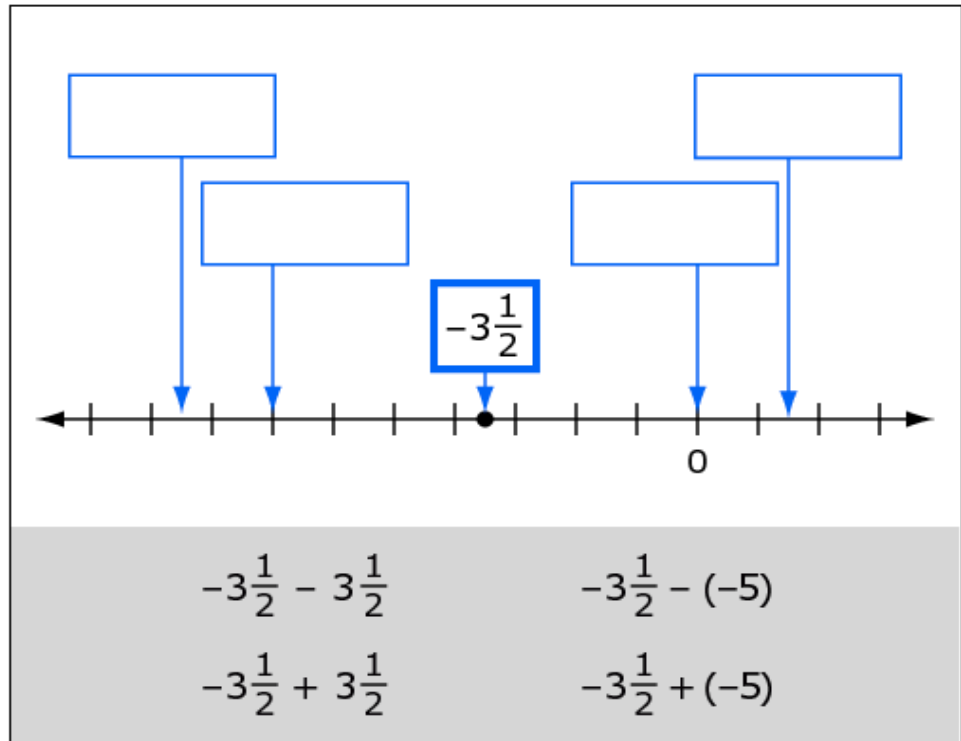
# Math Example Grade 7

42960



The point on the number line shows the location of  $-3\frac{1}{2}$ .

Move each expression into a box to show its correct location on the number line.



# Supporting your Child through Changes in Assessments

- Communicate with your child's teachers about his or her progress.
- Let your child know that its okay if the new assessments seem difficult at first.
- Encourage typing and computer skills.
- Visit the [Smarter Balanced Portal](#) to see practice questions and tests.
- <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>



# Continue Your Learning

www.orangeusd.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Orange Unified School District website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Calendars, Contact, Help, Maps, News Feed, STAFF ONLY, WebMail, Portal, and Support. Below this is the Orange Unified School District logo and a search bar. The main navigation menu includes Community, Parents, Students, Faculty & Staff, Divisions, Our Schools, and Facilities Plan. The 'Upcoming Events' section lists several events from February 4th to 9th. A large video player in the center features the word 'IMAGINE' and a play button. Below the video player are links for 'SD Download' and 'HD Download'. At the bottom, there are several informational buttons, including one for 'LOCAL CONTROL FUNDING FORMULA (LCFF)' and another for 'TRADITIONAL KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN 2014-2015'. A large blue arrow points to the 'LOCAL CONTROL FUNDING FORMULA (LCFF)' button.

Home Calendars Contact Help Maps News Feed STAFF ONLY WebMail Portal Support

Orange Unified School District  
1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867 • 714-628-4000

Community • Parents • Students • Faculty & Staff • Divisions • Our Schools • Facilities Plan

### Upcoming Events

- Feb 4** Parent Conference/  
*Minimum Day at:*  
*California, Cambridge Fairhaven, Esplanade, Handy, Lampson, Jordan, Prospect, Sycamore, Taft, West Orange*
- Feb 5** Villa Park High School Facilities Master Planning Community Group Meeting 6:00pm @ VPHS [MORE INFO](#)
- Feb 7** Serrano Elementary 50th Birthday Gala School Wide Assembly
- Feb 8** Serrano Elementary 50th Birthday Gala & Golf
- Feb 9** Serrano Elementary 50th Birthday Gala Family Fun Day 12pm-4pm Picnic & Games

# IMAGINE

SD Download | HD Download

**LOCAL CONTROL FUNDING FORMULA (LCFF)**  
[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

**TRADITIONAL KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN 2014-2015**  
[Please Click Here for Information](#)