

California's

Common Core Standards

**Parent**

**Handbook**



First Grade

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# Introduction

This pamphlet gives parents an introduction to California's Common Core Standards and a summary of what students are expected to learn in the grade level. The standards are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that our students need for success in college and careers. A common set of learning goals helps teachers and parents ensure students are challenged and making appropriate progress.

## Why Common Core Standards?

California educators have joined a national movement to adopt common standards and assessments for English language arts and mathematics. Common standards allow for collaboration among states on best practices and professional development.

Common learning goals provide a clear vision of what educators and parents in all states should aim for. These learning goals help ensure that students meet college and work expectations, are prepared to succeed in a global economy and society, and are provided with rigorous content and application of higher knowledge thinking. Benchmarked against international standards, the Common Core Standards assist students in their preparation to complete the requirements for enrollment at a California public university.

## California's Adoption of Common Core Standards

Adopted in California in August 2010, the K-12 Common Core State Standards were developed through a state-led effort to establish consistent and clear education standards for English language arts and mathematics. The initiative was launched by and supported by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. In the Common Core Standard adoption process, California added supporting standards to complete the unique picture necessary for California students.

The Common Core also added strength to the existing California standards by including additional standards for vocabulary and new standards for collaborative discussions. Literacy standards that focus on reading and writing instruction during history/social science, science, and technology also were included. In mathematics, standards were added to demonstrate a stronger emphasis on number sense and algebraic thinking.

## Organization of Standards

The information provided contains a content overview and a summary of skills developed at that level. In English language arts, California Common Core Standards are organized into the following four groups: (1) reading, (2) writing, (3) speaking and listening, and (4) language.

Included for mathematics is The Standards for Mathematical Practice, a set of behaviors that every student should develop. These practices deepen understanding of mathematics and enhance students' problem solving abilities.

- Look for and make use of structure.
  - Discern patterns and structures
  - Can step back for an overview and shift perspective
  - See complicated things as single objects or as being composed of several objects
- Look for and identify ways to create shortcuts when doing problems.
  - When calculations are repeated, look for general methods, patterns and shortcuts
  - Be able to evaluate whether an answer makes sense

## Mathematics | Standards for Mathematical Practice

The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe behaviors that all students will develop in the Common Core Standards. These practices rest on important “processes and proficiencies” including problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, representation, and making connections. These practices will allow students to understand and apply mathematics with confidence.

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
  - Find meaning in problems
  - Analyze, predict and plan solution pathways
  - Verify answers
  - Ask themselves the question: “Does this make sense?”
  
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
  - Make sense of quantities and their relationships in problems
  - Create coherent representations of problems
  
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
  - Understand and use information to construct arguments
  - Make and explore the truth of conjectures
  - Justify conclusions and respond to arguments of others
  
- Model with mathematics.
  - Apply mathematics to problems in everyday life
  - Identify quantities in a practical situation
  - Interpret results in the context of the situation and reflect on whether the results make sense
  
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
  - Consider the available tools when solving problems

## Grade 1 Overview | Mathematics

First grade students extend their understanding of addition and subtraction by learning to use adding and subtracting to solve word problems within 20. They understand the meaning of the equal sign and are expected to count to 120. Place value knowledge is deepened and students use this knowledge to compare two-digit numbers within 100. Students practice their measurement skills with linear measurement and begin to organize data from surveys. Students also tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks.

- Solve addition and subtraction word problems within 20
- Understand the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Apply the properties of operations
  - Commutative property of addition:  
If you know  $8 + 3 = 11$ , then you know  $3 + 8 = 11$ .
  - Associative property of addition:  
To add  $2 + 6 + 4$ , the second two numbers can be added to make a ten, so  $2 + 6 + 4 = 2 + 10 = 12$ .
  
- Add and subtract within 20
- Count to 120, starting at any number
- Understand the meaning of the equal sign
- Understand place value: ones, tens
- Use place value to add and subtract within 100
- Measure lengths and tell the measurement in units
- Tell and write time
- Relate time to events (before/after, shorter/longer, etc.)

## Grade 1 Overview | English Language Arts

First grade students independently interact with literature or informational text by asking and answering questions and identifying details and main events. They can read aloud accurately and with expression. First grade students can print all letters and can write about events, topics, and opinions.

### Reading

- Ask and answer questions about details in a reading selection
- Retell stories, including details
- Explain the differences between books that tell stories and books that give information
- With prompting and support, read first grade informational texts

### Reading: Foundational Skills

- Understand the organization and basic features of print
  - Left to right
  - Top to bottom
  - Page by page
- Recognize features of a sentence
  - Capitalization
  - Ending punctuation
- Understand spoken words, syllables, and sounds
- Understand phonics and word analysis
  - Know that every syllable must have a vowel sound
- Read regularly spelled one- and two-syllable words
- Read aloud with accuracy and expression

### Writing

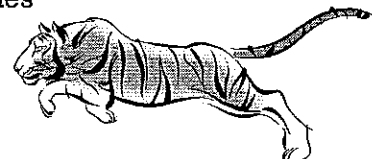
- Write opinion pieces that include an opinion and the reason for the opinion
- Write informative pieces that name a topic, supply facts, and provide closure
- Write narratives about two or more events in the correct order; include details

### Speaking and Listening

- Follow rules for discussions by building on what others are saying and by asking questions
- Follow simple two-step directions
- Speak in complete sentences

### Language

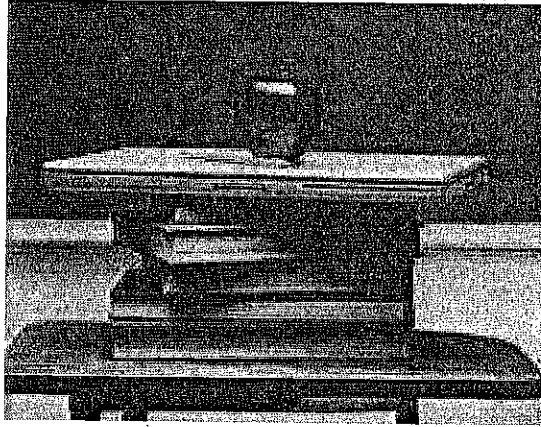
- Use correct grammar
- Print all uppercase and lowercase letters
- Use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Determine meaning of unknown words by looking at parts of the word and other words in the sentence
- Sort words into categories and define words by key attributes
  - A tiger is a large cat with stripes





## General Homework Tips for Parents

1. Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework. Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
2. Make sure your child has the necessary materials, such as paper, pencils, eraser, etc. available. Ask your child if special materials are needed for some projects and get them in advance.
3. Help your child with time management. Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Keep a calendar or daily planner with your child showing all scheduled activities. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.
4. Be a role model. When your child is doing homework, you do homework. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook. Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult.
5. Provide guidance, not answers. When your child asks for help, talk them through the problem, do not give them the solution. Your child will not learn the material if you supply them the answers. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him/her.
6. Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration. Let your child take a short break if he/she is having trouble keeping their mind on an assignment. Have your child take a brain break by doing something physical like running in place, or doing jumping jacks.
7. Stay informed. Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.
8. Reward your child for progress in doing homework. If he/she has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate with a special event (reading a book with you, taking a walk together, trip to the park, etc.)



## Common Core State Standard Links

**Parent-Friendly Information about Common Core -**

[http://www.pta.org/common\\_core\\_state\\_standards.asp](http://www.pta.org/common_core_state_standards.asp)

**Link for Detailed Information about Common Core –**

[http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common\\_core/default.htm](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/common_core/default.htm)

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

**Link for Homework Help for Common Core –**

<http://www.school.familyeducation.com>

<http://www.khanacademy.org>

<http://www.studygeek.org>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

<http://www.factmonster.com>

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com>

<http://www.commoncoreworks.org>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents>

<http://www.wonderopolis.org>