

California's

Common Core Standards

Parent

Handbook



Fourth 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

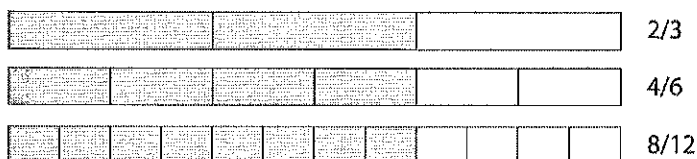
- Model with mathematics.
 - Apply mathematics to problems in everyday life
 - Identify quantities in a practical situation
 - Interpret results in the context of the situation and reflect on whether the results make sense

- Use appropriate tools strategically.
 - Consider the available tools when solving problems

Grade 4 Overview | Mathematics

Fourth graders use their knowledge of place value to generalize to 1,000,000 and learn to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place. They fluently add and subtract using the standard algorithm and multiply and divide with multi-digit numbers. Fourth graders extend understanding of fractions to include equivalence, ordering and simple decimal notation. Students measure angles and classify geometric shapes by lines (parallel, perpendicular, etc.) and angles (right, acute, obtuse, etc.).

- Use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with whole numbers to solve word problems
- Learn about factors and multiples
 - Factors of 24: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12
 - Multiples of 4: 4, 8, 12, 16, 20
- Make and describe patterns with objects and numbers
- Understand and use place value to generalize to 1,000,000
 - Expanded form: $6783 = 6000 + 700 + 80 + 3$
- Compute with multi-digit numbers
- Solve problems involving using multiplication of multi-digit by two-digit numbers
- Divide multi-digit numbers by one-digit divisor
- Round multi-digit numbers to any place
- Build understanding of equivalent fractions and ordering fractions



- Compare two fractions with different numerators and different denominators by making common denominators
- Add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with like denominators
- Understand the decimal notation for fractions
- Compare decimals
- Solve problems using measurement conversions
- Apply area and perimeter formulas for rectangles
- Organize and explain data using a line plot

Grade 4 Overview | English Language Arts

Fourth grade students read longer words and use roots, prefixes, and suffixes to determine the meanings of unknown words. They use details and examples in the text to determine the main idea and describe a character, setting, or event. Students produce writing that is developed, focused, organized, and edited. They group related ideas in paragraphs and sections, and provide a conclusion. Fourth grade students know when to use formal English, and when informal English is appropriate.

Reading

- Use details and examples in the text to determine the main idea and describe a character, setting, or event
- Use first person (e.g., *I said*) and third person (e.g., *She said*) narrative styles
- Read and understand literature and informational texts

Reading: Foundational Skills

- Use grade-level phonics and word analysis skills
 - Roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Read words with multiple syllables
- Read with accuracy and understanding

Writing

- Write opinion pieces that include a conclusion related to the opinion
- Write informative pieces that group related ideas in paragraphs and sections, and provide a conclusion
- Write narratives that introduce a narrator and characters; write about what the characters say, feel, and think; use sensory details
 - Sight, sound, scent
- Produce writing that is developed, focused, organized, and edited
- Write a short research piece

Speaking and Listening

- Participate in discussions, carrying out assigned roles
- Paraphrase portions of information presented aloud
- Plan and deliver a presentation based on a personal experience
- Speak clearly, in complete sentences, and at an appropriate pace

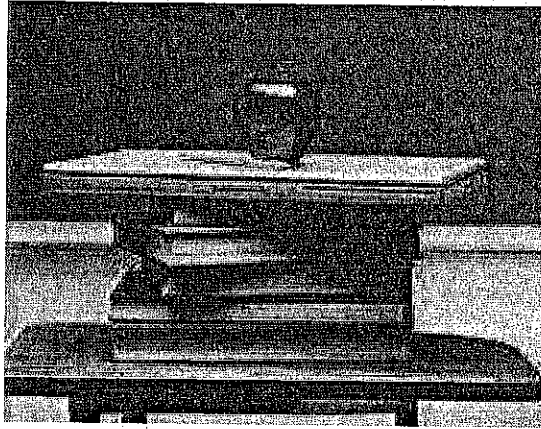
Language

- Use correct grammar
- Use complete sentences
- Correctly use frequently confused words
 - To, two, too
 - There, their, they're
- Use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Spell grade-level words correctly
- Know when to use formal English and when informal English is appropriate



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%20core%20state%20standards.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%20core/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>