

California's
Common Core Standards

Parent Handbook



Fifth 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

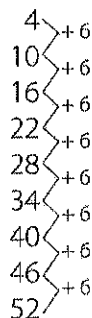
- Model with mathematics.
 - Apply mathematics to problems in everyday life
 - Identify quantities in a practical situation
 - Interpret results in the context of the situation and reflect on whether the results make sense

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

Grade 5 Overview | Mathematics

Fifth grade students finalize fluency with multi-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They apply their understanding of fractions to the addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators, the concept of fraction multiplication and division, and decimal addition and subtraction. They analyze numeric patterns and relationships and graph ordered pairs on a coordinate plane. Students build on their understanding of geometry by recognizing attributes of geometrical shapes and calculating inside angle measurement and area of triangles and parallelograms.

- Write and interpret numerical expressions using parentheses, brackets, or braces
 - “Add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2” is $2(8 + 7)$
- Express a whole number ($2 - 50$) as a product of its prime factors
- Describe more complex patterns by seeing the change



- Understand the place value system from thousandths to millions
- Fluently multiply multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithm
- Divide multi-digit numbers by two-digit divisors
- Read, write, and compare decimals to the thousandths
- Round decimals to any place
- Compute with multi-digit whole numbers and numbers with decimals to the hundredths

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- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators
- Multiply fractions and mixed numbers

Grade 5 Overview | English Language Arts

Fifth grade students build on their ability to read longer words, using roots, prefixes, and suffixes to determine the meaning of unknown words. Students explain how an author supports points in a text. They use quotes accurately when referring to the text. Students keep the audience in mind and include a clear sequence of events when writing. Students listen to a speaker or media source and identify reasons and evidence provided to support particular points. They identify and discuss misleading ideas.

Reading

- Quote accurately when referring to text
- Determine the main ideas and summarize the text
- Compare and contrast texts
- Explain how an author uses reason or evidence to support points in a text

Reading: Foundational Skills

- Use grade-level phonics and word analysis skills
 - Roots, prefixes, and suffixes
- Read with accuracy and fluency

Writing

- Write opinion pieces that support a point of view with reasons and information
- Write informative texts that share ideas and information
- Write narratives that use related descriptive details and a clear sequences of events
- Write clearly and with a purpose; keep the audience in mind
- Use technology to publish writing; type two pages in a single sitting

Speaking and Listening

- Summarize information presented
- Identify reasons and evidence a speaker or media source provides to support particular points
- Identify and discuss misleading ideas
- Plan and deliver a speech
- Deliver a memorized poem or section of a speech
- Use expression and gestures

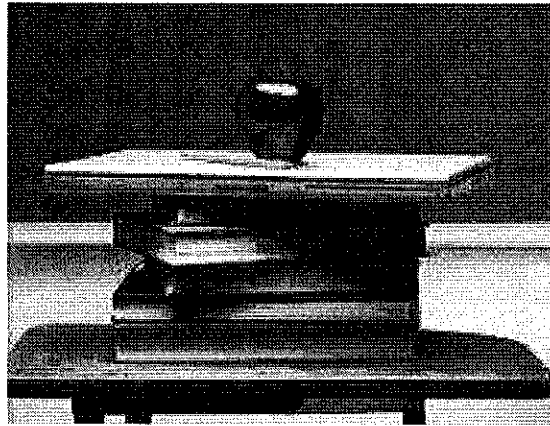
Language

- Use correct grammar
- Use verb tenses correctly
 - Yesterday I *walked*
 - Today I *walk*
 - Tomorrow I *will walk*
- Use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Use punctuation to separate items in a series/list
- Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics in a title
- Vary sentence length and style
- Compare and contrast styles used in literature
- Use a variety of methods to determine the meaning of an unknown word



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>