

Same Standards, Three Different Names

Plan 2020

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS)


The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are grade-by-grade K-12 standards in English and mathematics that are:

- grounded in research
- internationally benchmarked
- aimed to prepare students for college and careers after graduation.

They are “common” because they ensure that all students are held to the same expectations.

The CCSS were developed in early 2009 at the direction of the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). They were developed collaboratively and involved 48 states, hundreds of experts and thousands of educators.

What are the Common Core Standards?



The Alabama College and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS) includes the Common Core Standards, plus additional standards particular to Alabama.

Additions in English Language Arts include, among others, a cursive writing standard for grade 3 and poetry writing standards in grades 1 and 2.

What are the Alabama College and Career-Ready Standards?

Historically,

- Standards differed in each state
- Students are highly mobile
- Competition is now global
- Jobs of today require different skills.
- Children's educational expectations should not be zip code-dependent.
- Students need to be prepared with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and work. They need to be prepared graduates.


Why do we need the Common Core?

The College and Career Ready Standards will Result in Prepared Graduates.

A prepared graduate possesses the knowledge and skills needed to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing first-year courses at a two to four year college, trade school or technical school without the need for remediation.

Prepared Graduates, cont'd

A prepared graduate possesses the ability to apply core academic skills to real-world situations through collaboration with peers in problem solving, precision, and punctuality in delivery of a product, and has a desire to be a life-long learner.



Key changes in the English/Language Arts and Mathematics Curricula:

1. Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and informational text
2. Reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from both literary and informational text
3. Regular practice with complex text and its academic language

Three Key Shifts in ELA/Literacy

Building Knowledge:

Students are reading more complex texts. Read-aloud texts, well above grade level.

Responses Grounded in Evidence from the Text:

Sample of a Non-Text Dependent Question:

In “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Dr. King discusses non-violent protest. Discuss in writing, a time when you wanted to fight against something that you felt was unfair.

Text-Dependent:

What can you infer from King’s letter about the letter that he received?

Regular Practice with Complex Text:

Standards include a staircase of increasing text complexity from elementary through high school.

Standards also focus on building general academic vocabulary critical to comprehension.

Changes in Practice

Standard 2: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

K: With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of the text.

2: Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.

5. Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCRS Reading Informational Text – An Example of Progression Across Grade Levels

- Read to your children. One way to introduce your children to new vocabulary and concepts is by reading to them books that are beyond their grade level.
- Schedule a time daily for your children to read. Thirty minutes is a good goal.

What can a parent do to help?

1. Mathematics concepts are introduced and required to be mastered at earlier grade levels.

An example of key shifts is, but is not limited to:

2. Focus on Number and Operations in grades K – 5.
3. Focus on Ratio and Proportion in grades 6 - 8
3. Focus on Reasoning and Inequalities in grades 9 - 12

Key Shifts in Mathematics

- More time is spent making sense of mathematics and mastering concepts so students can build on the foundation.
- Clear, but challenging expectations are established for higher mathematics performance
- Focus is directed on connecting content and skills
- Higher cognitive skills are demanded from students
- Stress is placed on conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and problem solving
- Learning expectations are stressed; not how the students arrived there.

Important Elements of the New Mathematics Standards:

- Schedule time daily for your children to focus on mathematics concepts.
- An excellent free resource to help your children with mathematics at home is the Khan Academy website:
- <http://www.khanacademy.org/>

What can a parent do to help?

- A+ Education Partnership - <http://www.aplusala.org/>
- Alabama College and Career Ready Initiative - <https://www.alsde.edu/Home/General/alccs.aspx>
- Alabama College and Career-Ready Standards – Alex - <http://alex.state.al.us/ccrs/>
- Common Core State Standards Initiative - <http://www.corestandards.org/resources>
- Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction, CCSS - <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/files/cal/pdf/math-stds.pdf>

Bibliography
