

Common Core and Assessments

Primer

The development of Common Core standards began as an initiative of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association

- The California State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the common core standards (in mathematics and English language arts) in August 2010.
- Link to FAQ (how common core standards are different, issues relative to instructional materials and assessments, technology)
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/ccssfaqs2010.asp>

Several elements – all must be updated and aligned with Common Core

- Standards define what pupils should know at specific grade levels
- Frameworks are the blueprint for implementing the standards (and include criteria by which instructional materials are evaluated)
- Instructional materials must be aligned to the current standards
- Professional development must be provided to teachers and instructional leaders
- Assessments must be developed that are aligned to the new standards

Building new assessments

- The state's assessment system is scheduled to sunset July 1, 2014. This system includes the STAR program, which consists of the California Standards Tests (including a standards-based test in Spanish), the California Modified Assessments and the California Alternative Performance Assessment (the latter two are for pupils with special needs).
- California is a governing member of the Smarter Balanced consortia
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp>
- California is currently piloting the new assessments (February – May 2013). Pilot testing will provide information about test administration, technology and student

responses. Smarter Balanced will use this information to inform overall test development. Pilot testing does not generate student scores, instead it tests the test.

- California will field test the new assessments in March – June 2014. The field test will contain questions that were refined from the pilot testing. Field testing will generate student scores but not for purposes of accountability.
- Full deployment of the new assessments is scheduled for the 2014-15 school year.

SPI's recommendations for transitioning to new assessment system:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/documents/suptrecrpt2013.pdf#search=assessment&view=FitH&pagemode=none>

Current legislation:

- AB 484 (Bonilla) suspends STAR tests that are not currently required for federal accountability purposes or for the Early Assessment Program.
- SB 247 (Liu) eliminates the requirement that the STAR test be administered in grade 2, beginning with the 2014-15 school year, and requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to identify, by November 1, 2014, existing assessments in English language arts and mathematics for grade 2 for diagnostic use by teachers.
- SB 300 (Hancock) requires the SBE to consider, by November 30, 2015, the adoption of a revised framework and evaluation criteria for instructional materials in science (based on the Next Generation Science Standards to be adopted by the SBE by November 30, 2013).
- SB 201 (Liu) authorizes the SBE to adopt basic instructional materials for K-8 that are aligned to the common core English language arts standards and the common core English language development standards, by November 30, 2015.

- SB 490 (Jackson) relates to the use of common core assessments for the Early Assessment Program.
- AB 899 (Weber) requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to present to the SBE, by January 1, 2015, English language development standards that are aligned to common core standards in mathematics and literacy in science.
- AB 455 (Medina) requires the development and adoption, by June 1, 2015, of Braille reading and mathematics standards that are aligned to the common core.

Recent legislation:

- SB 140 (Lowenthal, Chapter 623, 2011) requires the CDE to develop a list of supplemental instructional materials (for grades K-8) that will bridge the gap between materials currently used in schools and the new common core standards. SB 140 also allows school districts to approve supplemental materials not on the CDE's list as long as the materials are aligned to the common core standards.
- The CDE is implementing AB 124 (Fuentes, Chapter 605, 2011) which requires the alignment of the English language development standards with the common core standards. The SBE adopted the new ELD standards in November 2012.
- The CDE is also implementing AB 250 (Brownley, Chapter 608, 2011) which among other things requires the SBE to adopt revised curricular frameworks (and criteria for the evaluation of instructional materials) in mathematics and English language arts that are aligned to the common core standards. It is expected that the math framework will be completed by the end of March 2013, and the ELA framework will be completed by the end of May 2014.
- SB 1200 (Hancock, Chapter 654, 2012) authorizes the revision of the common core standards (specific to address the problem with 8th grade math, whereby CA adopted two sets of standards: one is common core grade 8 math and one is grade 8 common core plus Algebra). SB 1200 also authorizes the SBE to adopt the common core college and career readiness anchor standards.
- AB 1719 (Fuentes, Chapter 636, 2012) requires the development of criteria for the evaluation of supplemental instructional materials for English learners (per the new ELD common core standards). AB 1719 also requires the CDE to complete the approval of supplemental instructional materials in mathematics (pursuant to SB 140, Lowenthal).

- AB 1246 (Brownley, Chapter 668, 2012) authorizes the SBE to conduct an adoption of basic instructional materials in mathematics that are aligned to the common core standards, authorizes school districts to use instructional materials that are aligned to the common core standards but that have not been adopted by the SBE, and extends the existing timeline for the revision of the mathematics framework and evaluation criteria. .