



Paramount Unified School District

Educational Services

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What's Happening with the California Common Core Standards in PUSD?

How do the California Common Core Standards prepare students to be College and Career Ready ?

College and career readiness competences are the foundation for success after high school. They are broad-based knowledge and skills that graduates need to have to be prepared to meet educational or career objectives. Graduates need this level of readiness if they are to succeed in college level courses without remediation and enter workforce training programs ready to learn job specific skills.

Employers and colleges are asking applicants to demonstrate a range of abilities including critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication and collaboration. Students who are College and Career ready:

- ♦ Demonstrate independence
- ♦ Build strong content knowledge
- ♦ Respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline
- ♦ Comprehend as well as critique
- ♦ Value evidence
- ♦ Use technology and digital media strategically and capably
- ♦ Come to understand other perspectives and cultures



How will students be assessed on the Standards?

Students throughout California will be assessed with the next-generation assessments which measure progress toward college and career readiness. The new assessments which will replace STAR in 2014-15, are called *Smarter Balanced*. Did you know that you can explore sample Language Arts and math questions at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>? The *Smarter Balanced* sample items exhibit the rigor and complexity of ELA/literacy and mathematics questions students will experience on the next generation assessments in 2014-15.

Who are your school's Common Core Lead Teachers?

Representatives from each K-12 school meet monthly to learn about the California Common Core Standards. These representatives share their learnings with others and practice strategies in their classrooms to prepare for Common Core implementation. Do you know who your school's Common Core Lead Teachers are?

California will fully implement the Common Core Standards in 2014-15

To learn more about the California Common Core Standards and new assessments, visit the Paramount Unified School Districts' website at www.paramount.k12.ca.us or the CDE CCSS Resources Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc>

What are the instructional shifts for Language Arts/Literacy in the Content Areas and Math?

The California Common Core Standards require students to probe more deeply into subject matter, engage in higher-level reasoning and apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios and problem solving.

Language Arts/Literacy in the Content Areas (Science, Social Studies)

- ♦ *Evidence-based reading and writing:* Reading and writing are grounded in evidence from text. Students are required to cite evidence and factual information to support their thinking.
- ♦ *Greater emphasis on informational text:* Students build knowledge through non-fiction with emphasis on history and science.
- ♦ *Increased text complexity:* Students are assigned text that is more demanding.



Mathematics

- ♦ *Focus:* Students acquire foundational knowledge and deep conceptual understanding of mathematical skills.
- ♦ *Coherence:* Major topics are linked across grade levels, so skills are layered upon one another as students progress through school.
- ♦ *Rigor:* Students are taught to be fluent in math concepts and apply learning to real-world scenarios.

What is PUSD's timeline for implementation?

Implementation of the Common Core will occur in stages with full implementation in 2014-15. For now, California's state standards still apply and are assessed with the STAR assessment program. By 2014-15, STAR will be replaced with a new assessment that measures students' attainment of the Common Core Standards. PUSD's transition will take place over a three year period consisting of:

2012-13: Awareness

2013-2014: Transition

2014-2015: Implementation

