

Common Core & College Readiness



Goals of the Common Core Standards

- Fewer
- Higher
- Deeper

Common Core Standards – Math

- Students should be able:
 - “understand,” “describe,” “explain,” “justify,” “prove,” “derive,” “assess,” “illustrate,” and “analyze.”
- They also need to be able to:
 - “model,” “construct,” “compare,” “investigate,” “build,” “interpret,” “estimate,” “summarize,” “represent,” “evaluate,”
- Finally, students should be able to “extend,” and “apply” their learning to a wide range of real world problems
 - including uses in science, engineering, and technology problems

Common Core Actions IN CA

- All segments of postsecondary education have publicly endorsed common core standards
- 3 public systems are considering using common core grade 11 college readiness assessment for placing students in regular credit courses.
- University of California is using common core standards for approving high school courses to satisfy admissions requirements
- SAT/ACT revising their assessments with common core standards as a reference point

Common Core Actions IN CA (con't)

- All segments participate in a working group funded by NGA to revise teacher preparation, college teaching, and student information concerning common core
- Students and schools in grades 3 through 8 and 11 will receive assessment information on college readiness
- Some universities considering using common core assessment as one factor in comprehensive admissions decisions

What is Content Readiness?

English Language Arts/Literacy	Students who perform at the College Content-Ready level in English language arts/literacy demonstrate reading, writing, listening, and research skills necessary for introductory courses in a variety of disciplines. They also demonstrate subject-area knowledge and skills associated with readiness for entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing English and composition courses.
Mathematics	Students who perform at the College Content-Ready level in mathematics demonstrate foundational mathematical knowledge and quantitative reasoning skills necessary for introductory courses in a variety of disciplines. They also demonstrate subject-area knowledge and skills associated with readiness for entry-level, transferable, credit-bearing mathematics and statistics courses.

Smarter Balanced Goals for Higher Education

- Colleges and universities **recognize** the Smarter Balanced Grade 11 assessment as a valid measure of college content-readiness as defined by the Common Core State Standards.
- Colleges and universities **agree** on a common performance standard in English language arts/literacy and mathematics for college content-readiness.
- Colleges and universities **use** the Smarter Balanced assessment as evidence that students are ready for credit-bearing course work and can be exempted from developmental courses.

A New Vision for Assessing Readiness

Typical Placement Practice Today

- Each college or system sets its own standards and selects its own measures.
- K-12 typically has no information about the standards.
- Students don't know about tests and don't prepare for them.
- Predictive validity of tests is often unknown.
- Students who "played by the rules" end up in remediation.



Smarter Balanced Vision

- Assessments designed around known, agreed-upon standards (Common Core).
- Performance standards set through an open process with substantial higher education involvement.
- Everyone (students, teachers, parents, etc.) knows the expectations.
- Students address deficiencies in high school.

Policy Framework for Grade 11 Assessment Results

Level 4

- Content-Ready/Exempt from Developmental
- K-12 and higher education may jointly set Grade 12 requirements to retain exemption (optional for states)

Level 3

- Conditionally Content-Ready/Exempt from Developmental
- In each state, K-12 and higher ed must jointly develop Grade 12 requirements for students to earn exemption

Level 2

- Not Yet Content-Ready – Support Needed
- Transition courses or other supports for Grade 12, retesting option for states

Level 1

- Not Yet Content-Ready - Substantial Support Needed
- K-12 & higher education may offer interventions

Note: Applies only to students who matriculate directly from high school to college.

Higher Education After Smarter Balanced: What's Changed?

- Instead of multiple tests, with differing performance standards, all public schools in consortium states use the same test, content standards (Common Core) and performance standards.
- Grade 11 performance standards are pegged to college content-readiness, with standards for earlier grades mapped to Grade 11.
- In each state, K-12 and higher education set requirements for Grade 12 (may vary by institution type).
- Students, parents and teachers know where the academic “goal line” is and students can address deficiencies in high school.
- Working together, K-12 and higher education can develop appropriate grade 12 experiences for students at differing achievement levels.
- Colleges can target students for special programs based on Grade 8 scores (or earlier).