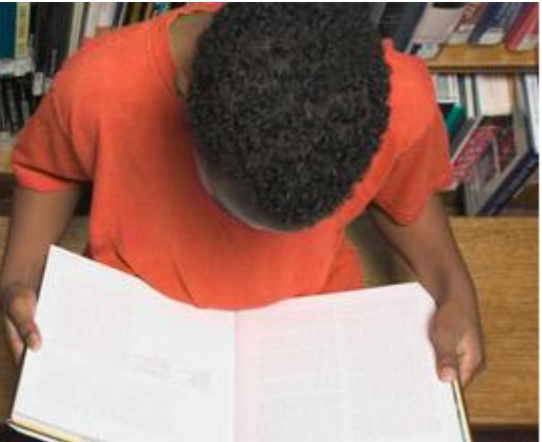


INFORMATIONAL
UPDATE

Transitioning to the Common Core

A new set of expectations for students



California is currently transitioning to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a set of standards for English language arts and mathematics that will improve the quality of education in our schools. These new, internationally-benchmarked standards focus on supporting students' college and career readiness, and bring California's old standards, which were adopted in the 90's, into the 21st century. As part of this transition, the state is also implementing new assessments that will help evaluate students' progress on the standards.

The Importance of High-Quality Assessments

Successful implementation of the Common Core standards relies on high-quality assessments that measure how well our students are faring against the new and more challenging expectations. A group of states that includes California has created assessments linked to the new standards, which will be given a practice run over the next few months.

The new assessments:

- **Reflect** that California has raised the bar significantly regarding its expectations of all students;
- **Promote** students to think more deeply and critically about the content they learn in school across disciplines;
- **Encourage** educators to provide deeper learning opportunities for students;
- **Measure** student progress toward college-and-career readiness benchmarks, enabling educators to diagnose any problems and intervene accordingly; and
- **Test** student achievement in a more meaningful way by leveraging technology that tailors questions to responses.

Building the Infrastructure

Ensuring these high-quality assessments are implemented in California depends on having the required infrastructure in place to administer the new technology-based tests. This spring, that infrastructure will be taken through a practice run, or field test, that will provide 3 million students and thousands of teachers with hands-on experience with the new assessments. This field test will also help identify any necessary technological changes that should

Additional Resources

Get more information about Common Core and the upcoming test [READ](#) →

Try a practice test and see what is being expected of students [GO](#) →

View a video that explains the new tests to students [WATCH](#) →

Read the California Department of Education's information [GO](#) →

Visit West Ed's Common Core web site [GO](#) →

occur before the assessment system is fully implemented.

As a result of this solid preparation work, California will build the strong foundation needed to successfully administer the new assessments to students and measure their progress to the standards the following year—and that’s good for our students, our schools, and our state. Stakeholders will need to have patience as bumps in the road are encountered during this important practice run, keeping in mind the end goal of having a system that sets higher expectations for all of our students and produces a common education language schools can use to leverage continuous improvement.



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