

## How Will My Child Be Assessed?

### WHAT IS SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (SBAC)?

Smarter Balanced is an assessment consortium of 23 states who have adopted the Common Core State Standards.

### WHY AN ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM?

Working together with other states who have adopted Common Core to develop new tools to monitor student progress is more efficient and economical, and provides a balanced assessment.

### HOW IS SBAC DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS CA STATE TESTING?

- ◆ Measures achievement and growth in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics; students assessed in grades 3-8 and 11.
- ◆ Administered online in an interactive, adaptive format
- ◆ Include questions and performance tasks to measure critical thinking and problem solving skills
- ◆ Linked to international benchmarks
- ◆ Provides clear and timely feedback on student achievement and progress

## California's Common Core State Standards A Parent's Guide



Unified School District

“ We will work together to provide a comprehensive, rigorous and relevant education to all students in Bellflower Unified School District.”

Brian Jacobs, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

# Why Common Core?

**The California Common Core Standards (CCCS) is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).**

: The standards are designed to ensure students are prepared for today's entry-level careers, freshman-level college courses, and workforce training programs.

: The standards are internationally measured and monitored regularly, ensuring our students are competitive world wide.

: Expectations are consistent for all students regardless of the child's state or school. Also, built in features enable students with disabilities and English language learners to demonstrate what they have learned.

- :
- ◆ Focus - fewer concepts at each grade level and more in-depth learning, provide for at a greater degree of mastery.
  - ◆ Coherent - a solid foundation and new understandings for students through connections to learning across grade levels.

How you can support literacy at home:

- Encourage your student to read widely - from a vast variety of sources - in order for them to gain experience and practice reading different types of text, including literature, textbooks, newspapers, magazine articles, recipes, "how to" sources.
- Question them about what they read including any vocabulary that is required for clear understanding of texts. Spend time on individual words, and share your experience with words specific to a particular subject. Discuss words that have multiple or complex meanings, including how those words add to what the writer is saying.
- Support your child's reading by encouraging them to work through books that may initially be a bit too challenging. Read and reread the books together, taking the time to discuss key details from the text. Ask "why" and "how" questions that encourage your child to analyze text.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
AND STRATEGIES:**

**[www.bUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.bUSD.k12.ca.us)**

**Speak with your child's teacher**

## English Language Arts

- ◆ A progressive development of reading comprehension helps ensure increased student learning
- ◆ An emphasis on grade level text complexity promotes necessary rigor

- ◆ Focuses on composing different styles of writing:
  - Argumentative/opinion
  - Informative/explanatory
  - Narrative
  - Research
- ◆ Integrates technology into each step of the writing process

- ◆ Focuses on **speaking** and **listening** in a range of settings: formal and informal
- ◆ small-group or whole-class
- ◆ Emphasis on evidence-based conversations about various text types
- ◆ Requires analysis of the message as presented through oral, visual, and multimodal formats

- ◆ Covers conventions in both writing and speaking
- ◆ Emphasis on vocabulary acquisition through conversation, direct instruction, reading and writing production
- ◆ Requires vocabulary to be addressed in the context of **reading, writing, speaking, and listening**

## Common Core means...

The **CCCS Math content standards** follow logical math progressions and are more focused, more coherent, and more rigorous than most states' previous standards. They are more:

- Teachers will now go deeper into the BIG IDEAS of mathematics. Students build a stronger foundation of mathematics. Students will learn fewer concepts at each grade level, but to a greater degree of comprehensive mastery.
- Teachers will intentionally bridge the sequence of topics, connecting the learning across grades so that students can strengthen their foundation and build new understandings.
- Teachers require students to learn about how they think, calculate with speed and accuracy, become fluent with basic math facts and operations, and to use mathematics in coordination and integration with any subject or technology in daily life.

The **English language arts and literacy standards** include reading, writing, speaking, and listening regularly in all subjects. Your child will:

- reading in history, social studies, science, and the arts. Reading is crucial for life-long growth and achievement.
- rather than asking students to respond to questions that they can answer solely from prior knowledge or experience.
- because the ability to comprehend complex and technical texts is the most significant factor distinguishing a college and career-ready learner.

# Mathematics

## Every Math Class will build on:

- ◆ Concept Development
- ◆ Fluency with Core Skills
- ◆ Real World Learning Opportunities

### STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct practical arguments and critique alternative reasoning.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure and process.
8. Look for and present patterns.

### STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL CONTENT:

- ◆ Grades K-5: Develop a strong concrete-to-conceptual foundation in number and operations, including fractions and decimals
- ◆ Grades 6-8: Develop a robust understanding of algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics
- ◆ High School: Apply mathematics and mathematical thinking in novel, real life situations, as both college students and employees are regularly called upon to do

## Making Math a Part of Your Family's Life:

- Always discuss math in positive ways
- Know what standards your children are studying
- Have high expectations for your children
- Make math an everyday part of your family
- Notice mathematics in the world

### Questions while working on math with your child:

When your child isn't sure how to begin a problem:

What have you tried? What steps did you take?

Did you review your math journal?

What have you been doing in class that might help?

What do you know about this part of the problem?

Is there a simpler, similar problem we can do first?

While your child is working on a problem, ask:

How did you organize your information? Will a table help?

What would happen if...?

Show me what you did that didn't work.

What could you do next? Do you see any patterns?

When your child finds an answer, ask:

Does that answer make sense? Why do you think that?

How did you get your answer? Do you think this is right?

Convince me that your solution makes sense. Explain it in a different way.

Is that the only possible answer?



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