

## Frequently Asked Common Core State Standards Questions

---

Q: Why is there a shift to CCSS?

A: CCSS are rigorous, research-based, and designed to prepare every student for success in college and the workforce.

Q: Why is my child doing so many group projects in class?

A: The CCSS emphasizes collaboration which is an essential skill for success to meet the demands of college and career readiness.

Q: Are correct answers still important?

A: Yes, however, the CCSS also emphasizes the process used and the underlying concepts.

Q: How does common core prepare my student for college exams?

A: College exams have always placed a high value on critical thinking skills, using complex text to provide evidence and academic vocabulary. CCSS are designed to cultivate these skills in students which will support them in taking these exams.

Q: Why aren't teachers explaining all of the material?

A: Teachers are using investigative practices and other teaching methodologies to develop critical thinking skills and vocabulary. While this may feel frustrating, research shows that students retain information and are able to apply these skills both inside and beyond the classroom.

Q: Why is reading technical material emphasized?

A: CCSS places value on reading a variety of different texts that prepare students for the demands of college and career level reading.

### Resources

---

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/communities/day-1-common-core.pdf>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

Information in this pamphlet is from the following source: *What Are the Common Core Standards?" - CCSS Systems Implementation Significant Milestones (CA Dept of Education)*. California Dept. of Education, 24 Feb. 2015. Web. 11 Sept. 2015.

Northern Humboldt  
Union School District

2755 McKinleyville Ave.  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

707-839-6470

<http://www.nohum.k12.ca.us/>

## Transitioning to the Common Core State Standards



**CALIFORNIA**  
Common Core State Standards

A parent and community guide to Key Instructional Shifts in the Common Core State Standards being implemented in the Northern Humboldt Union High School District Schools:

Arcata High School  
McKinleyville High School  
Pacific Coast High School  
Six Rivers Charter High School  
Tsurai High School

## Introduction to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

---

Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school. The California Department of Education helps schools make sure that all students are meeting the standards.

Since 2010, a number of states across the nation have adopted the same standards referred to as the Common Core State Standards. Northern Humboldt Union High School District has been working to prepare staff to successfully transition to the Common Core State Standards. Having the same standards helps all students get a good education, even if they change schools or move to a different state. Teachers, parents, and education experts designed these standards to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

## Instructional Shifts in English and Social Science

---

### 1. Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and informational texts

- The CCSS for literacy ensures that students can independently build knowledge in these disciplines through reading and writing.

### 2. Reading and writing grounded in evidence from text

- The CCSS reading standards focus on students' ability to read carefully and grasp information, arguments, ideas and details based on text evidence.

### 3. Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary

- The CCSS highlight the growing complexity of the texts students must read to be ready for the demands of college and careers.



## Instructional Shifts in Math and Science

---

### 1. Focus strongly where the Standards focus

- The CCSS allows students to gain strong foundations: solid conceptual understanding, a high degree of procedural skill and fluency, and the ability to apply the math they know to solve problems inside and outside the math classroom.

### 2. Coherence: think across grades, and link to major topics within grades

- The CCSS connects learning across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years.

### 3. Rigor: in major topics pursue: conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity.

- The CCSS supports students' ability to access concepts from a number of mathematics perspectives.