



## A Solution-Finding Report

**Title:** *Common Core State Standards (CCSS) Practice Guides*

**Date:** November 25, 2013

This solution-finding report provides information, requested by the California Comprehensive Center, for resources related to implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This report attempts to gather information on various available practice guides and related topics.

To consult the actual Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the following are the two pertinent websites:

Math: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math>

ELA: <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy>

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) website can be found at:

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

And a list of frequently asked questions can be found at:

<http://www.corestandards.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions>

*Solution-finding Reports* are intended to provide a quick response to the request for information; they are not intended to be a definitive literature survey or synthesis of the topic.

Achieve and U.S. Education Delivery Institute. (2012). *Implementing Common Core State Standards and assessments*. Washington, DC: Author.

[http://www.achieve.org/files/Common\\_Core\\_Workbook.pdf](http://www.achieve.org/files/Common_Core_Workbook.pdf)

This workbook “contains a framework for how to put all the relevant policies in place and offers sample timelines, relevant best practices, implementation advice and critical exercises to guide this important effort.”

Alliance for Excellent Education. (2012). *The nation’s schools are stepping up to higher standards*. Washington, DC: Author.

<http://all4ed.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/SteppingUp.pdf>

This report “identifies four key challenges that public school district leaders must systemically address...and outlines the essential elements for developing a comprehensive digital strategy.”

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. (2012). *Fulfilling the promise of the Common Core State Standards: Moving from adoption to implementation to sustainability*. Alexandria, VA: Author.

<http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/siteASCD/commoncore/CCSSSummitReport.pdf>

This report from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), which received a \$3 million grant from the Gates Foundation to support implementation of Common Core State Standards over a three-year period, illuminates activities educators and policymakers at all levels can undertake to successfully implement the Common Core State Standards.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. (2013). *ASCD and Common Core State Standards resources*. Alexandria, VA: Author.

<http://www.ascd.org/common-core-state-standards/common-core.aspx>

This webpage from the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD), which received a \$3 million grant from the Gates Foundation to support implementation of Common Core State Standards over a three-year period, contains a wealth of information about the standards, instruction, and assessment, including the opportunity to sign up for their free twice-monthly *Core Connection* newsletter.

Borovoy, A. E., & Cronin, A. (2013). *Resources for understanding the Common Core State Standards*. San Rafael, CA: The George Lucas Educational Foundation.

<http://www.edutopia.org/common-core-state-standards-resources>

This webpage is “An educator's guide to websites, organizations, articles, and other resources looking at the new system of standards and how they will be assessed.”

California Department of Education. (2012). *Local CCSS systems implementation plan template*. Sacramento, CA: Author.

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

This is an example of a local Common Core State Standards (CCSS) systems implementation plan template. The template is “organized around the significant milestones of CCSS systems implementation. The template denotes full implementation of CCSS systems by the 2014–15 school year. LEAs may wish to augment their local plans with elements from the Suggestions and Opportunities for LEAs charts distributed throughout the document or delete elements as appropriate to create a plan that is tailored to local needs.”

Cavanagh, S. (2011). Teacher training gets high priority in Md. push on Common Standards. *Education Week*, 30(36), 1, 24–25.

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/07/13/36maryland\\_ep.h30.html?tkn=SZYFpeW3f7%2B4kwTkDPDHUY%2BIvXiqKp7lalQX&cmp=clp-edweek](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/07/13/36maryland_ep.h30.html?tkn=SZYFpeW3f7%2B4kwTkDPDHUY%2BIvXiqKp7lalQX&cmp=clp-edweek)

This article concerns a statewide effort in Maryland to make sense of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), figure out how to apply them in their classrooms, and bring those lessons back to their schools. Educators gathered for one of 11 “educator effectiveness academies” staged across Maryland, which officials billed as the largest professional-development program for teachers ever held in the state. Every public school—1,450 in all—had been asked to send a team of educators to one of the academies, which were supported with federal Race to the Top money. State officials chose to hold the academies at sites across Maryland so that no teacher or principal had to make more than an hour’s trip by car.

Council of Chief State School Officers. (2013). *Common Core State Standards: Implementation tools and resources*. Washington, DC: Author.

[http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Publications/Common\\_Core\\_State\\_Standards\\_Implementation\\_Tools\\_and\\_Resources.html](http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Publications/Common_Core_State_Standards_Implementation_Tools_and_Resources.html)

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) developed this list of tools and resources “to point states to promising practices and tools to support Common Core State Standards implementation. This document primarily lists resources developed by CCSSO and the lead writers of the standards and is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all resources available.”

Education First. (2012). *Preparing for change: A national perspective on Common Core State Standards implementation planning*. Seattle, WA: Author.

<http://www.edweek.org/media/preparingforchange-17standards.pdf>

According to this report, “This study is intended to inform state policymakers, SEA staff, and other stakeholders interested in better understanding the progress states have made toward implementing common standards. This work should also be of particular use to those providing technical assistance or resources to states regarding CCSS implementation.”

Education Northwest. (2013). Common Core State Standards Implementation Resources. Portland, OR: Author.

<http://educationnorthwest.org/resource/1333>

This webpage contains Common Core State Standards (CCSS) resources that focus on implementation.

Education Week. (2013). *Common Core*. Bethesda, MD: Author.

<http://www.edweek.org/topics/standards/>

This webpage is dedicated to “the latest news about the Common Core State Standards, including articles, Commentaries, and special features.”

Jones, B., Tobiason, G., Chang, S., & Heritage, M. (2013). Getting a handle on the standards. Los Angeles, CA: National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing.

<http://www.cse.ucla.edu/downloads/files/GettingHandleStandards.pdf>

This resource is the first in a series produced by the Center for Standards and Assessment Implementation to assist teachers and those who support teachers to plan teaching and learning from the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for diverse learners. An important first step in preparing to teach the CCSS well is to understand the content of the standards and how they differ from States’ prior standards. This resource provides an introduction to the CCSS and outlines a detailed process that teachers can use to become knowledgeable about the standards and prepare to teach them.

Khan Academy. (2013). New Common Core content and practical resources. Mountain View, CA: Author.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/commoncore>

This website from the Khan Academy is dedicated to the Common Core State Standards. It states, “We’ve launched thousands of new peer-reviewed practice problems that rigorously cover the new US Common Core State Standards and can be used in your classroom today. Our expert team of 15 teachers, tutors and professors have meticulously unpacked individual standards to build new exercises designed entirely to test knowledge of standards on a deep level.”

Kober, N., & Rentner, D. S. (2011). *States’ progress and challenges in implementing Common Core State Standards*. Washington, DC: Center on Education Policy.

<http://www.cep-dc.org/displayDocument.cfm?DocumentID=343>

According to this report, “In the fall of 2010, the Center on Education Policy surveyed state officials about their efforts to adopt and implement the Common Core State Standards in reading and math. The survey found that states that have adopted the standards have plans for changing policies and programs, such as developing or adopting new assessments, modifying curriculum materials, and offering professional development for teachers, to ensure that the standards are fully implemented at the classroom level.”

LearnZillion. (2013). *Exceptional preparation for the Common Core*. Washington, DC: Author.

<http://learnzillion.com/>

This website has been called the Khan Academy of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). It is a learning platform that combines video lessons, assessments, and progress reporting. Each lesson highlights a Common Core standard.

Long, C. (2013). *States struggling with Common Core transition*. Washington, DC: NEA Today.

<http://neatoday.org/2012/01/29/states-struggling-with-common-core-transition/>

This article concerns how states across the country are still grappling with the transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). It says, “The new standards are more rigorous and lessons are much more complex than those of previous standards, and most states do not expect to have them in place until the 2014–15 school year or later.”

National Education Association. (2013). *NEA Common Core State Standards toolkit*. Washington, DC: Author.

[http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/14047-CommonCore\\_Toolkit\\_14.pdf](http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/14047-CommonCore_Toolkit_14.pdf)

According to this online publication, “These resources are designed to give educators the tools they need to implement the Common Core State Standards... This toolkit is intended to be a fully dynamic resource of information on Common Core State Standards and contains six critical areas for understanding and preparing for implementation of the Common Core State Standards: (1) Common Core State Standards Overview; (2) Curriculum and Instruction; (3) Professional Development; (4) Assessment and Reflection; (5) English Language Learners; and, (6) Students with Disabilities. Reviewed in its entirety, the toolkit provides general background and links to pertinent information about the CCSS, as well as practical assistance and planning. Users can download editable materials and presentations in smaller chunks that may be used in a variety of settings. Video resources have been included for individual use as well as for sharing in larger settings. Resources found in this toolkit will be updated periodically and as implementation of the Standards progress.”

Power, E. (2013). *How will Common Core change what we do?* San Rafael, CA: The George Lucas Educational Foundation.

<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/common-core-change-teaching-erin-powers>

This article, written by an education specialist, attempts to answer three basic questions: (1) What are the Common Core State Standards? (2) How will they change what teachers do? and (3) Why are they here?

Rothman, R. (2012). Nine ways the Common Core will change classroom practice. *Harvard Education Letter*, 28(4), 1–2.

<http://www.westtranchhighschool.com/math/9%20Ways%20the%20Common%20Core%20will%20Change%20Classroom%20Practice.pdf>

This article claims that, while about 80% of mathematics teachers feel that the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are quite similar to their current state standards, “those teachers might want to take a closer look. While the Common Core State Standards share many features and concepts with existing standards, the new standards also represent a substantial departure from current practice in a number of respects.” It then lists nine important differences.

Sawchuk, S. (2012). Higher Ed. gauges training of teachers for Standards: Illinois educators examine readiness. *Education Week*, 31(35), 8.

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/06/13/35teachers.h31.html?tkn=MOCFNDgbXea%2B7t%2Fh9qydyM4AVhl7IBRsUdxL&cmp=clp-sb-ascd>

This article concerns groups of teacher educators and other higher education officials meeting in an effort to ensure that education programs in Illinois produce young teachers capable of teaching to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Representatives from all 12 of the state’s public universities, 35 independent colleges, and 31 community colleges began the difficult work of assessing how and where their current efforts to train teachers are stopping short of the CCSS’s goals.

Share My Lesson. (2013). Common Core State Standards information center. Washington, DC: Author.

<http://www.sharemylesson.com/article.aspx?storyCode=50000148>

This website by Share My Lesson, a free teaching resources website developed by the American Federation of Teachers and TES Connect launched in June 2012, contains a wealth of facts and statistics about the standards, aligned curricula and lesson plans, the latest news on the Common Core, and relevant videos and links. In addition, users can access expert advice and opinions in the Common Core Forum, where they can ask or answer questions on the standards. The Share My Lesson team dug through more than 250,000 user-uploaded and -rated resources on the site to find the most relevant ones for teaching with the Common Core Standards.

Southeast Comprehensive Center. (2013). *Common Core State Standards video series*. Austin, TX: Author.

[http://secc.sedl.org/common\\_core\\_videos/index.php](http://secc.sedl.org/common_core_videos/index.php)

These webpages created by the Southeast Comprehensive Center contain the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) video series, designed to support states, schools, and teachers in the implementation of the CCSS. The videos were created in collaboration with the states in the Southeast Comprehensive Center region based on their needs for professional development support for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Each video is an audiovisual resource that focuses on one or more specific standards and usually includes examples/illustrations geared to enhancing understanding. The intent of each content-focused video is to clarify the meaning of the individual standard rather than to be a guide on how to teach each standard, although the examples can be adapted for instructional use. The videos include “Mathematics Common Core: Introduction,” five titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Kindergarten,” three titles for “Mathematics Common Core for First Grade,” five titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Second Grade,” five titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Third Grade,” six titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Fourth Grade,” four titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Fifth Grade,” four titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Sixth Grade,” three titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Seventh Grade,” four titles for Mathematics Common Core for Eighth Grade,” four titles for “Mathematics Common Core for Ninth through Twelfth Grade,” “English Language Arts Common Core for Sixth Grade: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas,” and “English Language Arts Common Core for Ninth through Twelfth Grade: Craft and Structure.”

Student Achievement Partners. (2013). *Steal these tools*. New York: Author.

<http://www.achievethecore.org/>

This is the website of Student Achievement Partners, a nonprofit organization founded by David Coleman, Susan Pimentel, and Jason Zimba, lead writers of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Their stated purpose is “to help all students and teachers see their hard work lead to greater student achievement.” This webpage states, “This website is full of free content designed to help educators understand and implement the Common Core State Standards. It includes practical tools designed to help students and teachers see their hard work deliver results. [achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org) was created in the spirit of collaboration. Please steal these tools and share them with others.”

Student Achievement Partners. (2013). *The Common Core shifts at a glance*. New York: Author.

<http://www.achievethecore.org/page/277/the-common-core-shifts-at-a-glance-2-pg-pdf>

This webpage offers a document explaining the biggest changes in mathematics and ELA/Literacy, a quick reference card summarizing these changes, a 1–2 hour module providing participants with an introduction to the key shifts required by the Common Core State Standards for ELA/Literacy, and a module providing participants with an introduction to the key shifts required by the CCSS for Math (depending on the activities selected, this module could support up to four hours of Math PD).

Student Achievement Partners. (2013). *CCSS instructional practice guides*. New York: Author.

<http://www.achievethecore.org/page/434/ccss-instructional-practice-guides>

On this Student Achievement Partners webpage there are downloadable practice guides designed to “provide specific guidance for what the CCSS for ELA/Literacy and Mathematics look like in planning and practice. They are designed as developmental tools for teachers and those who support teachers. Use the Instructional Practice Guides for teacher self-reflection, peer-to-peer observation and feedback, and instructional coaching.” The practice guides—which are only a fraction of the guides and tools available on this website—cover the following categories:

- CCSS Instructional Practice Guide for K–2 ELA/Literacy
- CCSS Instructional Practice Guide for 3–5 ELA/Literacy
- CCSS Instructional Practice Guide for 6–12 ELA
- CCSS Instructional Practice Guide for 6–12 Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects
- CCSS Instructional Practice Guide for 6–12 Literacy in History/Social Studies
- CCSS Instructional Practice Guide for K–8 Math
- CCSS Instructional Practice Guide for HS Math

Teaching Channel. (2013). *Common Core State Standards videos*. San Francisco, CA: Author.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/>

This is the website of the Teaching Channel, a nonprofit multi-platform service delivering professional development videos for teachers over the Internet and on television. In addition to showcasing inspiring teachers in videos, Teaching Channel also hosts a community for educators to share ideas, best practices and enhance their knowledge. A search of the term “Common Core State Standards” yields 274 videos, including 132 on English Language Arts, 66 on Math, 24 on Social Studies, 14 on Science, 10 on English Language Learners, and 2 on Arts.

The Hunt Institute. (2013). *Common Core State Standards: A new foundation for student success*. Durham, NC: Author.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TheHuntInstitute>

This YouTube website contains a collection of videos concerning the Common Core State Standards. There are 27 videos for teachers, supervisors, and administrators, including such titles as “The Mathematics Standards: How They Were Developed and Who Was Involved,” “The English Language Arts Standards: Key Changes and their Evidence,” and “The Mathematics Standards: Key Changes and Their Evidence.” There are 17 videos for Math Standards, 9 videos for ELA Standards, and over 30 videos under Recent Uploads.



Walker, T. (2013). Duncan offers flexibility on testing and evaluations during Common Core transition. Washington, DC: NEA Today.

<http://neatoday.org/2013/06/19/duncan-offers-flexibility-on-testing-and-evaluations-during-common-core-transition/>

With the transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) speeding up, states were faced with the prospect of having to “double-test” their students in 2013–14, administering both the new field test tied to the CCSS and the statewide standardized test. But according to this article, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan responded to the concerns of educators across the country by announcing a waiver that would free students of this burden and allow states to give only one end-of-year test.

Walker, T. (2013). Ten things you should know about the Common Core. Washington, DC: NEA Today.

<http://neatoday.org/2013/10/16/10-things-you-should-know-about-the-common-core/>

This article says the ten things you should know about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) “are intended to clarify key points, allay concerns about what the Common Core isn’t, and—most importantly—highlight how the standards can be the game-changer students need.”

WestEd & CRESST. (2013). The Center on Standards & Assessment Implementation. San Francisco, CA: WestEd; and Los Angeles, CA: National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST).

<http://csai-online.org/>

This website—recently launched by The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation, a partnership between WestEd and CRESST—contains extensive resources to help states, school districts, and schools implement the Common Core State Standards and prepare for consortia-based assessments. The comprehensive website contains an extensive library of reviewed and approved resources and tools, center-developed products, a state of the states interactive mapping guide, upcoming events and news, as well as assessment development updates.