

A QUICK
OVERVIEW OF
HIGH SCHOOL
COMMON CORE
STANDARDS



SILICON VALLEY
COMMON
CORE
INITIATIVE

HIGH SCHOOL

There's a shift in classwork and expectations for high school students under the new learning standards. There's a good chance some curriculum and homework will be unfamiliar to both students and parents. Depending on the district, the biggest shift at your school may be in math. To manage expectations and ensure that teachers and parents can work together, it's important to understand the big learning goals.

1 EXAMPLES OF

skills high schoolers should learn under Common Core

Reading

- In high school, **the standards call for more nonfiction reading**. By the end of twelfth grade, the balance should be 25% fiction—novels, plays, poetry—and 75% nonfiction—science, history, math and other informational texts.
- Identifying two or more central ideas and citing text-based evidence to support analysis both of what's explicitly written and what's inferred.
- Identifying an author's point of view and analyzing the effectiveness and structure of the author's writing.

Writing

- The standards stress stronger nonfiction writing. Students need to do more research and planning before they start writing.
- Students will know how to introduce an argument, develop and defend it, and present the information in an organized, logical sequence.
- High school students should use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, explicit details, varied transitions and techniques such as metaphors and analogies—all while maintaining a formal style and objective tone.

Math

- The standards emphasize learning math in the context of real-world situations and solving real problems. Nobody's workday starts with the warning, "Today we will be multiplying fractions." It's not how math classes should work, either.
- All students will be developing an integrated understanding of algebra, geometry, statistics, functions and number sense. At some schools, these will be taught as separate subjects, but students will be expected to combine them when solving problems. At other schools, they will be taught together.

Learning

AT HOME

- **Challenge teens to try their hand at professional writing** they'd find interesting or entertaining. Use prompts like: *Create two characters for a new video game and write their dialogue. Write a press release for a terrible-smelling perfume/cologne.*
- Ask teens to create a budget. Based on an annual salary, have kids figure out what's left after taxes and how much to spend each month on necessities (shelter, food, transit, savings) and luxuries (entertainment, gifts, investments).
- Model how to break large assignments into smaller, more manageable pieces. Most real-world projects aren't completed in a single day—neither are most big reports or school projects.

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See skills

IN ACTION

- Can Common Core fix this problem? **Check out this infographic** showing how many high school graduates who go to four-year colleges need to take remedial classes.