



# Crete-Monee School District 201U

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## Common Core State Standards

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?**

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort that established a single set of clear educational standards for Kindergarten through 12th grade in English-Language Arts and Mathematics that 46 states have voluntarily adopted. The standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit bearing courses in two or four year college programs or enter the workforce. This is called College and Career Readiness. The standards are clear and concise to ensure that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics in school. The standards describe the skills and knowledge our students need to succeed in a rapidly changing world, including the ability to think creatively, solve real-world problems, make effective arguments, and engage in debates.

To view a video about the Common Core State Standards: <http://vimeo.com/30055181>

#### **How do the Common Core State Standards compare to previous state standards?**

The Common Core State Standards were written by building on the best and highest state standards in existence in the U.S., examining the expectations of other high performing countries around the world, and careful study of the research and literature available on what students need to know and be able to do to be successful in college and careers. No state in the country was asked to lower their expectations for their students in adopting the Common Core Standards. The standards are evidence-based, aligned with college and work expectations, include rigorous content and skills, and are internationally benchmarked. They were developed in consultation with teachers and parents from across the country so they are also realistic and practical for the classroom.

#### **What is different about the new standards?**

The standards were designed by looking at what students should know and be able to do when they exit high school. Using these as exit anchor standards, the developers created grade level standards from grade 11 down to kindergarten. The result is a vertical learning progression for all students K-12.

In English-Language Arts, the standards address literature, informational text, writing, language, listening, and speaking.

#### **Shifts in English-Language Arts (ELA)**

These apply to content area (social studies, science, and technical subjects) teachers, as well as English teachers:

1. Building knowledge through content-rich non fiction and informational texts in addition to literature
2. Reading and writing grounded in evidence from the text
3. Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary

In Mathematics, the standards are grouped by domains for each grade level (e.g. Measurement). The grade level domains change as students encounter more complex math skills and concepts (e.g Algebra).

Mathematical standards are also partnered with 8 Mathematical Practices. These practices describe behaviors that students should be able to use in order to learn and apply math concepts and skills (e.g. modeling).

### Shifts in Mathematics

1. Focus: 2-3 topics intensely focused in each grade
2. Coherence: Concepts logically connected from one grade to the next and linked to other major topics within the grade
3. Rigor: Fluency with arithmetic, application of knowledge to real world situations, and deep understanding of mathematical concepts

Both the English-Language Arts and Mathematical standards emphasize appropriate use of technology and digital media.

### How will the Common Core State Standards be assessed?

Illinois is a Governing State in the Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers (PARCC), a consortium of 24 states working to develop an assessment system that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The PARCC assessments will track student progress toward college and career readiness over time. The assessments will be computer-based and will utilize a variety of test questions to measure critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication. PARCC will replace ISAT and PSAT beginning in the 2014-2015 school year. Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, our state tests will start changing to include Common Core State Standards.

### Crete-Monee School District 201U Common Core Implementation Timeline

2010 -2011	2011-2012	2012-2013*	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016 and Beyond
Awareness	<b>Professional Learning: Understanding the Standards</b>  <b>Beginning Curriculum Development</b>	<b>Continued Professional Learning: Instructional Shifts</b>  <b>Continued Curriculum Development</b>  <b>Early Implementation of Standards</b>	<b>Continued Professional Learning: Instructional Shifts</b>  <b>Continued Curriculum Development</b>  <b>Expanded Implementation of Standards</b>	<b>PARCC Assessment Spring 2015</b>  <b>Curriculum Revisions Based on Implementation Feedback</b>  <b>Full Implementation of Standards</b>	<b>Annual Continuous Improvement Process</b>  <b>Curriculum Revisions Based on Assessment Results</b>  <b>Full Implementation of Standards</b>

Frequently Asked Questions can also be found on the district website under the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

[www.cm201u.org](http://www.cm201u.org)