



Crete-Monee School District 201U Common Core State Standards Frequently Asked Questions March 2013

Why is the Common Core State Standard Initiative important?

We want to make sure that every child across the country is given the tools they need to succeed. High standards that are consistent across the states provide teachers, parents, and students with a set of clear expectations that everyone can work toward together. This will ensure that we maintain America's competitive edge so that all of our students are well prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to be college and career ready.

By what criteria were the Common Core State Standards developed?

The standards were developed by the following criteria:

- Aligned with expectations for college and career success
- Clear, so that educators and parents know what they need to do to help students learn
- Consistent across all states, so that students are not taught to a lower standard just because of where they live
- Include both content *and* the application of knowledge through high-order skills
- Built upon strengths and lessons of current state standards and standards of top-performing nations
- Realistic, for effective use in the classroom
- Informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society
- Evidence and research-based

What does it mean for students to be college and career ready?

College and career readiness refers to the content knowledge, skills, and habits that students must possess to be successful in postsecondary education or training that leads to a sustaining career. A student who is ready for college and career can qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial or developmental coursework or workforce training programs. This might include two- or four-year degree programs, certificate or licensure programs, apprenticeships, or training programs in the military.

What is the definition of a literate person in the 21st Century?

The Common Core State Standards lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the 21st century. The descriptions below provide a picture of students who meet the standards. As students advance through the grades and master the standards in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language, they are able to exhibit the capacities of the literate individual.

They demonstrate independence.

Students can comprehend and evaluate complex texts of various types and across many content areas. They can also make constructive arguments and effectively use information. Likewise, students are able to independently determine key points, clarify, and ask relevant questions. They build on others' ideas, articulate their own ideas, and confirm that they understand. They demonstrate command of Standard English and acquire and use a wide- ranging vocabulary.

They build on strong content knowledge.

Students gain knowledge across a wide range of subject matter. They become proficient in new areas through research and study. They read purposefully and listen attentively to gain both general knowledge and content-specific expertise. They build upon and share their knowledge through writing and speaking.

They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.

Students adapt their communication based on their audience, the task, the purpose, and the subject area. They set and adjust the purpose for reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use as required by the task. They understand how the audience should affect tone when speaking and how the connotations of words affect meaning. They also know that different disciplines call for different types of evidence such as experimental evidence in science or documentary evidence in history.

They comprehend as well as critique.

Students are engaged and open-minded readers and listeners. They work to understand precisely what and author or speaker is saying. They also question an author's or speaker's assumptions and assess the veracity of claims and soundness of reasoning.

They value evidence.

Students cite specific evidence when interpreting a text. This is done both orally and in writing. They use relevant evidence when supporting their own points in writing and speaking, making their reasoning clear to the reader or listener. They constructively evaluate others' use of evidence.

They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.

Students use technology to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use. They tailor their online searches to acquire useful information efficiently. They integrate what they learn online with what they learn offline. They are familiar with the strengths and limitations of various technology tools and resources and can select and use those best suited to their goals.

They understand other perspectives and cultures.

Students understand that the 21st century classroom and workplace are settings in which people from different cultures, experiences, and perspectives must learn and work together. Students actively seek to understand others through reading and listening. They are able to communicate effectively with people of varied backgrounds. They evaluate other points of view critically and constructively. Through reading students can inhabit worlds and have experiences much different from their own.

