

**California Community of Practice
Webinar Series
Triangulating Post-Secondary Goals
March 20, 2012**

**Common Core State Standards
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Where can I learn more about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)?

Information about the Common Core State Standards can be found on the California Department of Education Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc/>.

2. Why were the CCSS developed?

The CCSS were developed through a state-led initiative to establish consistent and clear education standards for English language arts and mathematics that would better prepare students for success in college, career, and the competitive global economy. The California State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the standards on August 2, 2010. Visit the [adoption process](#) Web page to learn more about the process.

3. How were the CCSS developed?

The development of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was a voluntary state-led effort coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, with stakeholders from nearly every state in the country contributing to their development. In the fall of 2009, governors and state commissioners of education from 48 states (including California), two territories, and the District of Columbia, committed to developing a set of standards that would help prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in education and careers after high school. The feedback and the review process was integral to the shaping of these new standards, and included educators from kindergarten through grade twelve, postsecondary faculty, curriculum and assessment experts, researchers, national organizations, and community groups.

The CCSS include standards for mathematics, English-language arts, and literacy in various content areas for students in kindergarten through grade twelve. More information about the development of the CCSS is available at the [Common Core State Standards Initiative Web Site](#) (Outside Source).

4. When do the CCSS take effect?

The standards were adopted by the State Board of Education on August 2, 2010. However, it will take several years to implement curriculum, instructional materials, and assessments based on the new standards. The implementation plan can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc/documents/ccssimpsysplanforca.doc>.

5. When should teachers begin teaching the CCSS?

Educators should begin reviewing the CCSS now in order to understand the changes in the standards and what they will need to consider in transitioning to them. The [CDE CCSS Resources Web page](#) has numerous documents, PowerPoint presentations, and Webinars to support the transition to the CCSS and is updated as new resources become available.

An excellent resource with which to begin the transition is [A Look at Kindergarten through Grade Six in California Public Schools](#), a compilation of subject-matter curriculum, including information about transitioning to the CCSS, organized by individual grade levels. [CDE on iTunes U](#) also offers many high quality CCSS-related professional learning resources for educators. In addition, [California's county offices of education](#) are good sources of information and resources to support the transition to the CCSS.

6. Will the CDE provide professional learning modules to support the transition to the CCSS?

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 250 (Statutes of 2011), the California Department of Education (CDE) has compiled a list of professional learning activities and resources that are currently available and has conducted surveys to determine what professional learning activities and resources are most needed by local educational agencies (LEAs). The CDE has formed a design team to develop criteria for new professional learning modules designed to meet the identified needs of educators. Modules will be available for both individual study and group activity, web-based and school-based delivery, and will assist in the implementation of the CCSS and increase the effectiveness of teachers based on the *California Standards for the Teaching Profession* and the *Learning Forward Standards for Professional Learning*. Topics will include instructional strategies to support all learners including English learners, pupils with disabilities, and underperforming students; instructional strategies that promote creativity, innovation, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and communication skills; the integration of subject area content knowledge; and instructional leadership and coaching. More information regarding the professional learning modules is available in Guiding Strategy 1 of the *Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California*.

In addition, the CDE's CCSS Resources Web page has numerous documents, PowerPoint presentations, and Webinars to support professional development and is updated as new resources become available.

7. Where can I learn more about College and Career Ready Standards and the transition process.

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) has developed a brief entitled *College and Career Ready Standards and Secondary Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities: 101*. This document can be found on the NSTTAC Web page at http://nstattac.org/sites/default/files/College_and_Career_Readiness101.FINAL2.pdf