

## HOW WILL MY CHILD BE ASSESSED ON THE NEW STANDARDS?

Student assessments are not new and for many states, including California, taking assessment tests online will become standard. California assessments are being developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Schools in Clovis Unified are already preparing to transition to a *computerized testing* model, and parents interested in seeing what such assessments will look like can visit:

[www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/)

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED?

New standards do not change the critical role that informed and involved parents have in a student's success. In addition to encouraging your student to think in terms of "why" a particular answer or solution is correct, parents are encouraged to stay in close communication with their child's classroom teachers about school work and progress. By staying informed about your child's school experience, you can offer help where needed and encourage academic success.

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## WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more about California's revised content standards and how Clovis Unified is implementing these standards, visit [www.cusd.com/standards](http://www.cusd.com/standards). Additional information about the new standards, including the Common Core State Standards, can be found at:

California Department of Education:

[www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

US Department of Education:

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)



# CALIFORNIA'S CONTENT STANDARDS

How do these standards affect my child?






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*Great teachers are, and have always been, at the heart of great education.*

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Educational standards help define what schools will teach students in a given grade and subject area. They act as a road map for educators to ensure that what students learn is consistent across schools and school districts. In Clovis Unified standards are

used to identify concepts, knowledge and skills students need to master.

If content standards are the “what” students will learn, individual school districts, schools and teachers determine “how” this information is delivered to students. One of the key values in CUSD is continuous improvement and learning. Our goal is and has always been for our students to master the skills and concepts represented by California’s Content Standards. Revised standards don’t change that fact, but they will be used by educators in Clovis Unified to improve the way we help every child be the best they can be in mind, body and spirit.

### HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA’S CONTENT STANDARDS

California implemented statewide educational standards in the late 1990s, and has annually assessed students on how well they have learned these standards since 2001. Most recently, in 2010, California adopted a revised set of standards that, in part, include Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and math. History/social science, science, health, visual and performing arts, world language and physical education standards continue to be those developed specifically by California.

### WHAT ARE THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is a term used to refer to a set of common educational standards in English Language Arts and mathematics that have been adopted by almost all of the states in the nation. Use of consistent standards is one way to help ensure all students receive a quality education.

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*The standards were written using the best and most rigorous state standards already in existence throughout the country.*

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The effort to create a set of common standards was led by educators and state leaders across the nation who wanted to promote *consistency* among the nation’s public schools. Teachers, parents, school administrators, state departments of education, assessment developers, scholars, students and community members provided input into the development of the CCSS.

The standards were written using the *best and most rigorous standards* already in existence throughout the country. They are based on research around effective instruction, internationally benchmarked, and aligned with college and work expectations. To learn more about the CCSS, visit [www.cusd.com/standards](http://www.cusd.com/standards).

### WHAT DO NEW STANDARDS MEAN FOR CLOVIS UNIFIED AND FOR MY CHILD?

We have always aligned the written, taught and tested curriculum. This means that we use the standards as a basis for what students are supposed to know and be able to do.

The revised standards place greater emphasis on application and understanding of materials, and less emphasis on basic memorization and test-taking skills. Students will better learn how to analyze and understand why an answer is correct. Our students will be able to explain why they have formulated a certain opinion or arrived at a certain answer. These are skills that are critical to success in college or a career.

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