

Common Core Standards

What everyone in PV Schools should understand

District Common Core vision: All stakeholders are able to express a common understanding of Common Core and the district plan for implementation, ensuring readiness for college and career for all students.

1

Rationale for Common Core

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy. - *Common Core State Standards Initiative*

- **Preparation:** The standards are college- and career-ready. They will help prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in education and training after high school.
- **Competition:** The standards are internationally benchmarked. Common standards will help ensure our students are globally competitive.
- **Equity:** Expectations are consistent for all – and not dependent on a student’s zip code.
- **Clarity:** The standards are focused, coherent, and clear. Clearer standards help students (and parents and teachers) understand what is expected of them.
- **Collaboration:** The standards create a foundation to work collaboratively across states and districts, pooling resources and expertise, to create curricular tools, professional development, common assessments and other materials.

Source: *Achieve.org*

2

College and Career Readiness

It is commonly said that the goal of high school reform is to ensure all students graduate “college and-career- ready.” But as often as this mantra is repeated, confusion remains over what it actually means.

Simply put, “college and career readiness” refers to the content knowledge and skills high school graduates must possess in English and mathematics – including, but not limited to, reading, writing communications, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving – to be successful in any and all future endeavors.

Of course, readiness for college and careers depends on more than English and mathematics knowledge; to be successful after high school, all graduates must possess the knowledge, habits and skills that can only come from a rigorous, rich and well-rounded high school curriculum.

- *Achieve.org*

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Instructional shifts

- **A greater emphasis on** building knowledge through, reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from content-rich text, both literary and informational, and regular practice with complex text and its academic language.
- **A stronger focus** on critical thinking in all major topics linked to conceptual understanding, procedural skill, fluency, and application.

English Language Arts / Literacy shifts

- 1 Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction.
- 2 Reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational.
- 3 Regular practice with complex text and its academic language.

Mathematics shifts

- 1 Focus strongly where the Standards focus.
- 2 Coherence: Think across grades and link to major topics within grades.
- 3 Rigor: In major topics pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity.