

Frequently Asked Questions About Common Core State Standards

1. When should schools implement the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects?

Implementation of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects will occur over several years as support materials and assessments are developed. The State Board of Education will adopt and release model curricula in 2011 that will assist schools in designing curriculum locally. While there is no implementation deadline that schools and districts must meet, it is likely that new statewide assessments aligned to the 2010 standards will be implemented during the 2014-2015 school year. It is important to note that this timeline is tentative and dependent upon multiple factors including Common Core Standards and Race to the Top assessment consortia on the national level.

2. When will statewide assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects begin?

Development of statewide assessments aligned to the Common Core Standards will begin after the State Board of Education adopts the Model Curricula in March 2011. Development is likely to include field-testing of assessments during the 2012-2013 school year, with implementation during the 2014-2015 school year.

3. What can be done in the short term?

Educators should become familiar with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. They are encouraged to participate either as individuals or in focus groups to review the first draft of the Model Curriculum, which is published for public review and feedback. They should utilize all opportunities to provide feedback on the Model Curriculum materials including completing the individual survey available on the Ohio Department of Education's website. This engagement will provide them an opportunity to develop a richer understanding of all the components of the revised standards and the model curriculum.

4. How can educators begin to align their instruction with the Common Core Standards?

Educators should:

- Focus on content depth, as represented in the 2002 benchmarks, rather than “covering” indicators.
- Integrate the concepts and skills from reading, writing, speaking, listening and language into all instructional units. Avoid teaching concepts and skills in isolation.
- Use inquiry-based instruction K-12.
- Develop students’ ability to view themselves as effective readers, writers – as effective communicators.
- Use resources that connect the English language arts concepts and skills in the classroom to the outside world, which adds relevance to what is being taught.
- Become familiar with the Content Statements and Enduring Understandings found in the Model Curriculum which is posted online.
- Integrate inquiry into existing curriculum.
- Promote performance-based assessment.
- Plan and implement appropriate professional development for both teachers and administrators, building both content and pedagogical knowledge and effective inquiry-based teaching and learning for students as well as educators.

5. How will the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects be distributed?

The K-12 Common Core Standards in ELA can be found at www.corestandards.org. In the upper right corner of the screen, select the tab The Standards. Grade-band standards can be printed by selecting Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects (66 pages.)

In addition, the following support documents can be found at this location:

- English Language Arts Appendix A: Research Supporting Key Elements of the Standards, Glossary of Terms. (43 pages)
- English Language Arts Appendix B: Text Exemplars and Sample Performance Tasks. (183 pages)
- English Language Arts Appendix C: Samples of Student Writing. (107 pages)

6. How are the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects organized?

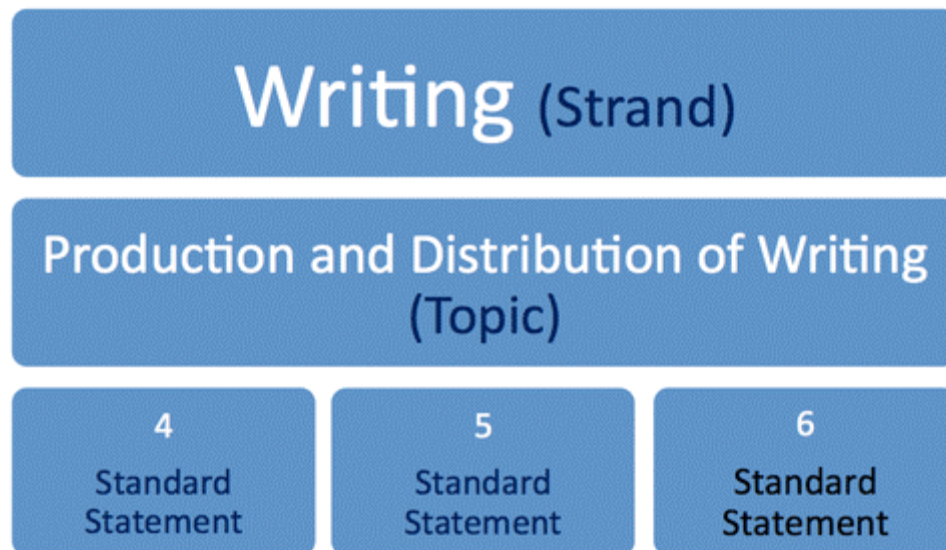
The Common Core Standards in ELA are organized into four strands:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

The Reading strand is further divided into three sub-strands:

- Reading Literature
- Reading Informational Text
- Reading Foundations (K-5 only)

Each strand/sub-strand is organized into topics which group standards by similar concepts and skills. These topics are the same through each strand for every grade level. The graphic illustration below shows the structure of one topic in the writing strand that can be found on page 21 of the standards document.



7. How do the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects compare to the 2002 Ohio Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts?

ODE has developed a [crosswalk](#) which shows the approximate alignment with the 2002 standards.

While clear connections between both sets of standards exist, differences also are evident. The structure and organization of the new standards has been reformatted and includes some new terminology. It is important to keep in mind that this document identifies connections between the Common Core standard statements and the 2002 benchmarks and indicators from the Ohio Academic Content Standards, but these are not equivalent expressions and do not represent absolute alignment.