

Top 10 FAQs on K-12 Implementation of Common Core

1) When will I be able to see the units of study for my grade level or content area?

A. The draft of the units of study for high school and elementary school will be shared at the department chair meetings and ILT meetings in the month of March. Teacher leaders will be provided the drafts to share with the rest of their grade level or content area. All teachers will have the opportunity to provide feedback through a collective summary form from each site. Feedback is required by March 29, 2013 so that the revised units of study can be completed by mid April. The intermediate school teachers and secondary math teachers will have the opportunity to provide similar feedback by the middle of April with revised units of study by the end of April.

2) Q. What will the unit of study implementation look like at the end of the year?

A. Both elementary and secondary writing teams will pilot specific strategies and/or lessons within the units of study. Final revisions of the units of study will be completed by mid April for elementary and high school and late April for intermediate school so that teachers can be trained on the units of study. Elementary teachers will be trained at their school site by their CLAS teachers. Secondary teachers will be trained by secondary curriculum specialists and secondary CLAS teachers by content area. Secondary teachers will be able to choose between receiving training after school at a three-hour professional development or attend a half-day release (with district provided subs) professional development. K-1 and 12th grade teachers will implement the unit of study in early May since they do not administer the CST. All other teachers in the identified grades and courses will implement the units of study after administering the CST.

3) Q. Who will support the teachers as they implement the units of study?

A. Teachers will be supported by CLAS teachers from their content area, TOSAs, district curriculum specialists, site administration and district administration during the implementation process. Site administration will ensure that teachers in need of additional support are provided resources to support effective implementation (for example: demonstration lessons, peer coaching, assistance with planning or additional materials).

4) How can I become involved in summer unit of study writing and assessment teams?

A. If teachers would like to be part of the writing teams during the summer, they are encouraged to apply during the window of interest, which opened March 4 and will remain open until April 1, 2013. Interest forms are available through the CLAS teachers or through the Staff Development website as of March 1, 2013. All interest forms should be submitted to Maria Abundiz in the Staff Development Office by April 1, 2013.

5) Q. How does AVID Curriculum align to the Common Core Standards?

A. AVID has recently released a revised set of performance standards for the 6th to 12th grades that better vertically aligns expectations for the AVID Elective Class. These standards set grade level expectations for strategies such as Cornell note-taking and tutorials, but also have embedded Common Core language at each grade level that reinforces the expectations of their English, history, and science classes. In addition, each of

The Write Path books (for different subjects such as English, math, history, and science) has strategies that will support teachers' efforts to meet the rigorous expectations of the Common Core Standards. For example, strategies such as charting/marking texts, Socratic Seminars, double entry journals, and various collaborative strategies will greatly enhance students' abilities to meet the expectations set out in the Common Core Standards (such as comparing, analyzing, supporting/identifying claims, etc.).

6) Q. How does Gifted and Talented instruction align to the Common Core State Standards?

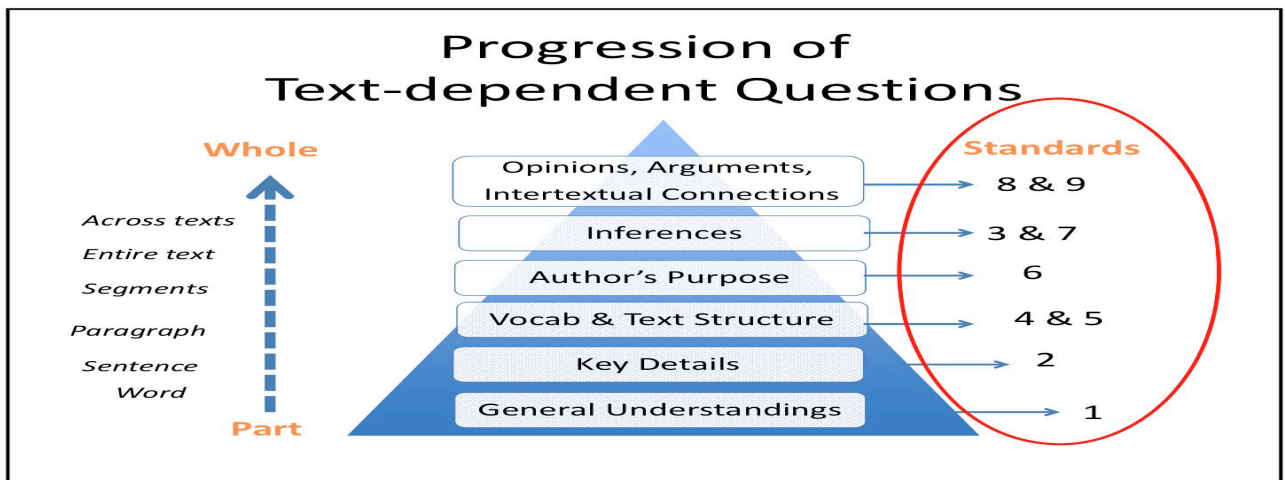
A. California Association of the Gifted (CAG) is currently revising the GATE standards to be more aligned to the Common Core State Standards. However, even the current GATE standards have been focusing on many of the educational concepts of rigor, depth, complexity, relevance, and deeper understanding that are emphasized in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). There are fewer standards in CCSS and more encouragement for students to go deeper into topics and make connections, both personal and cross curricular. In addition, there is more emphasis on making sure students use the skills and strategies they learn, placing less emphasis on the learning of skills and more on the utilization and transfer of that knowledge to new situations which is emphasized in gifted and talented education.

7) Q. Will teachers be able to remove stories out of the Open Court curriculum to cover other stories within the theme more deeply (i.e. close reading, analytic writing)?

A. Yes, during the summer, teachers serving on the unit writing teams will be trained and work together to analyze the OCR selections using the dimensions of text complexity and the CCSS-ELA. The group will make recommendations as to which selections best fit the learning objectives and which stories can be removed. By removing some of the stories, teachers will be able to engage students in close reading of specific texts, increase collaborative conversations between students, and amplify the amount of writing done in the classroom. The teams' recommendations and options will be incorporated into the curriculum maps for the 2013-2014 school year along with the scope and sequence of foundational skills that still must be incorporated weekly.

8) Q. How does the progression of text dependent questions mentioned in the latest edition of the Common Core newsletter link back to the Common Core State Standards?

A.



9) Q. How has secondary CLAS been restructured?

A. To ensure that secondary teachers are provided with personalized professional development and unit of study support, both the text complexity module and unit of study professional development will be content driven. This will mean that the secondary CLAS teachers will support multiple school sites within a specific curricular area. The majority of the time, the secondary CLAS teachers will come to a school site as a team to facilitate the delivery of the text complexity professional development module or to provide professional development on the unit of study.

10) Q. How can I find out more information about the Common Core?

A. Go to our Common Core website. You will find it on the SAUSD's home page on the left hand side. On the website, you will find videos, presentations and pamphlets that will provide you further information.