

# What is Common Core?

...and why should I care?



# What Have We Been Doing?

- No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
  - Passed during the Bush administration
  - Required states to develop guidelines and standards for student achievement
  - Allowed states to develop state standards levels for grade level proficiency
    - States set different levels for proficiency, which made it difficult to compare student achievement across states.





# How California Implemented NCLB

- Developed curriculum standards in all content areas (Math, Science, ELA, History)
- Tested student achievement in 2nd - 11th grades
- Assigned schools a “score” based on the state test and a number of other factors (API/AYP)
- Expected 100% proficiency (all students and all subgroups) by 2013-2014 for a school and/or district to “pass”.

# Where We Are Now

- NCLB is in limbo
- A collaborative group of 45 states and the District of Columbia have developed and signed onto the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics
  - Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)
  - National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
- States have two years to fully implement the new standards



# What is Common Core?

- Established to define the knowledge and skills students should achieve in order to graduate from high school, ready to succeed in entry-level, credit bearing academic college course and workforce training



# What Will Change

- Many grade level standards will change
- Assessment will change
- Teaching will change



# What Will Change

- Students will be asked to **APPLY** knowledge rather than just **ABSORB** knowledge
- More Project-Based Learning



# Testing

- Student testing will now be computer based rather than paper and pencil
- Tests will “adjust” to students’ proficiency levels
- Grades 3 – 11
- Phased in over 2 years





# School Accountability

- It is still to be determined what measures will be used to “rank” or hold schools accountable for student learning
- Testing will be one item used to assess school progress (60%)
- 40% will be made up of other indicators
  - College preparedness?
  - High school graduation rate?
  - School climate (suspension/expulsion rates)?





# Examples in English Language Arts

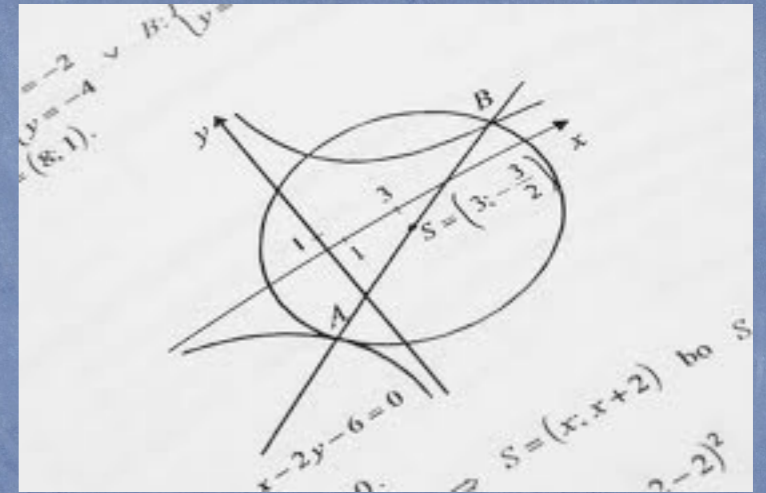
- Read more non-fiction
- Learn about the world through reading
- Read more challenging material
- Talk about reading using evidence
- Learn how to write from what is read
- Know more vocabulary words

# Mathematics Goals and Common Core

- Build on learning year after year
- Spend more time on fewer concepts
- Use math facts easily
- Develop speed and accuracy in solving problems
- Really know it, really do it
- Use mathematics in real-world situations



# Secondary math



- Integrated or traditional

# Controversies!

- Is this a Federal program?
- Does Common Core “dumb down” educational standards”?
- Does Common Core indoctrinate students?
- “Data mining”
- Race to the Top monies

# In Review...

- Common Core State Standards will ensure that all schools in the consortium use the same learning standards in the same grade levels
- State tests will be the same across all states
- Schools in different states will all be “judged” using the same set of standards
- Students will develop each concept more deeply
- The emphasis will be on the application of knowledge rather than just the acquisition of knowledge

# Questions?

