

## Common Core workshops from McREL

In addition to providing in-depth analysis, alignment audits, and strategic consultation about the Common Core State Standards, our expert consultants can come to your school, district, or agency to deliver high-quality professional development workshops tailored for your educators, creating one-, two-, or three-day workshops based on your specific needs and priorities. Workshop topics include:

### Overviews, Assessments, and Lesson Planning

- Understanding Common Core Assessment
- Formative Assessment in the Classroom
- Planning Common Core Lessons
- Keeping Kindergarten Playful in the Common Core Classroom
- Preparing Preschoolers for the Common Core Using Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- English Language Learners and the Common Core

### CCSS English Language Arts Standards

- Understanding the Common Core English Language Arts Standards
- Understanding Lesson Design in the English Language Arts Standards
- Critical Practices (individual workshops on Text Complexity, Vocabulary, Argumentation, Research and Writing to Sources, Building Knowledge through Non-fiction, and Close Reading)
- Instructional Coaching for Common Core ELA Instruction

### CCSS Mathematics Standards

- Understanding the Common Core Mathematics Standards
- Understanding Instruction for Common Core Mathematics

- Focus on Mathematical Practices
- Mathematical Discourse
- Instructional Coaching for Common Core Math Instruction
- Making Math Content Relevant—Applications and Modeling
- Helping Students who Struggle with Mathematics

### Content Areas

- Critical Practices (individual workshops available on Text Complexity in the Content-Area Classroom, Vocabulary in the Content-Area Classroom, and Content-Area Research and Writing)
- Teaching Reading in the Content Areas
- Integrating Reading and Writing in Science, Social Studies, History, and Technical Subjects

### Leadership

- Leading the Change to the Common Core at the District Level
- Leading the Change to the Common Core at the School Level
- Using Data to Monitor Implementation of the Common Core at the School Level
- Curriculum for the Common Core

To learn more, visit us at  
[www.mcrel.org/commoncore](http://www.mcrel.org/commoncore).

# Common Core Solutions

Make the most of your transition to the new standards



The Common Core represents a unique opportunity to transform schools and classrooms into environments where all students have opportunities to succeed.

For nearly two decades, we've been a leader in standards-based education, helping schools, districts, and states review, improve, and implement standards. Now, we're using this experience to help schools and districts nationwide transition smoothly to the Common Core.

What can we do for you?



## Customized solutions based on your needs

Because every school and district is unique, we work with your team to tailor solutions to your priorities and needs. Wherever you are in the process, whether it's in understanding the Common Core, aligning curricula to the new standards, translating the standards into classroom practice, or implementing them on a large scale, we can help with the transition.



## Understand the Common Core and its implications for learning

- **Gain a deeper understanding of the new standards**  
Understand the purposes of the new standards, how they differ from your state's current standards, and what these differences mean for teachers and students.
- **Understand what is necessary for implementation**  
We can compare your state's standards to the Common Core, highlight key differences between them, and review your curriculum and related materials to help you identify next steps for transitioning to the Common Core.

## Align district curricula to Common Core standards

### Align and revise current curricula

Our experienced standards and curriculum team can conduct an audit of your proposed or existing district or school curricula to see how they align with the Common Core. We can also go a step further, helping you revise your curricula to ensure strong alignment. We can help you:

- Evaluate publishers' claims of alignment of their material to the Common Core
- Identify opportunities for embedding Common Core content into existing courses and curricula, such as Career & Technical Education
- Identify opportunities for establishing standards for literacy across the curriculum
- Develop or revise prekindergarten standards to ensure students are well prepared to begin Common Core learning



The What Matters Most™ framework

McREL’s Common Core State Standards solutions help educators guarantee challenging, engaging, and intentional instruction and ensure curricular pathways to success—two of the five key areas that matter most for student success.



Translate the Common Core into classroom practice

Align and develop curriculum guides

We can help you by:

- Conducting an audit of existing curriculum or pacing guides to check for alignment with Common Core State Standards
- Reviewing pacing guides to ensure students’ opportunity to reach mastery by year’s end
- Developing calendar-based frameworks for curriculum delivery
- Producing clear, understandable learning targets for students

Help teachers deliver instruction that meets Common Core goals

Our experienced coaches and trainers can help your teachers apply research-based instructional strategies to ensure student success:

- Use curriculum to create units of study, design instruction, and develop assessments to meet the increased learning expectations of the new standards
- Use the content specifications from PARCC and Smarter Balanced to understand assessment design
- Teach the rigorous English Language Arts standards, including identifying complex and challenging texts for each grade level, and using informational and narrative text to focus literacy instruction
- Incorporate reading and writing standards for literacy into history/ social studies, science, and technical subjects in grades 6–12
- Insert mathematical practices into lesson plans to prepare all students for rigorous requirements, including deeper levels of understanding, fluent problem solving, and higher-order thinking skills

- Use research-based guidance from the new editions of *Classroom Instruction That Works* and *Teaching Reading in the Content Areas* to plan and deliver lessons that reflect learning objectives aligned to Common Core standards
- Integrate Common Core expectations for student technology use into lesson plans and classrooms
- Respond to the language demands embedded in the new standards by supporting language development for English-language learners in academic content areas

Ensure implementation success

Help leaders guide implementation

School culture can make or break successful implementation of the Common Core. Drawing on our Balanced Leadership® program, we provide school leaders with tools, resources, and insights to:

- Manage personal transitions associated with change
- Address other aspects of school culture that influence change efforts (trust, collaboration, communication, and shared leadership)

Monitor implementation efforts

Using our Power Walkthrough® software, leaders can collect and analyze walkthrough data on teachers’ use of instructional strategies that support Common Core learning.

Provide ongoing implementation support

Our experts can help you anticipate challenges and overcome obstacles, and provide your school teams and teachers with ongoing practical guidance and support. We can help you develop model unit and lesson plans and formative assessments. Our review services also include recommendations for revision of curricular and instructional documents.

Bridge the gap between Common Core curriculum, instruction, and assessment

McREL and Measured Progress have partnered to help educators and students prepare for the increased rigor and cognitive demands of the Common Core. To help districts assess the understanding of the new English language arts and mathematics standards, Measured Progress designed the COMMON CORE **Assessment Program**—a comprehensive suite of tools including targeted **Testlets** (short, pre-configured tests), a new **Item Bank** (for grades 3–11), and quarterly **Benchmarks** (for grades 3–8). All components of the **Assessment Program** are built to the Common Core State Standards. McREL offers complementary services, including research-based professional development on the Common Core standards, instructional strategies, and use of formative assessment data to drive powerful changes in student success. Together, Measured Progress and McREL are equipped to help you and your students prepare for the new standards.



Available now: McREL’s Common Core Quick-Start Guides

<http://shop.ascd.org>

