10 Steps to a Successful Transition to the Common Core

1. Unpack the standards
   The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) define what your students need to know to be successful, not how they have to learn it. The act of “unpacking” the standards gives educators a clear picture of specifically what the new standards intend for a student must know, understand, and be able to do.

2. Crosswalk to find commonalities
   Many of the concepts currently taught in your classrooms today are contained in the Common Core State Standards. Crosswalking can aid you in determining which concepts you are already teaching and can transition to your new curriculum. Many states have now built crosswalks from the state’s existing standards to the Common Core.

3. Gap analysis
   Gap analysis is the second part of the crosswalk in which you identify what your previous standards did not cover and what concepts you need to add to your new curriculum.

4. Inventory your resources
   Once you’ve identified what new concepts need to be taught, you need to determine if you have the resources you need to teach your new curriculum.

5. Curriculum mapping
   Creating curriculum that aligns to the Common Core can seem like a daunting task at first, but a lot of what you are teaching today can be reorganized to align with the Common Core standards. Make sure to leverage your state’s crosswalk documents and keep an open line of communication between key stakeholders.

6. Teach teachers how to teach the Common Core
   Provide professional development to create a meaningful transition. Take a step back to ensure that teachers are seeing the big picture. Example: A third grade teacher needs to look beyond the third grade standards (in grades both above and below) to determine what students should have learned before and what will be expected of them next.

7. Where are your students in relation to the CCSS?
   Now that you know what you need to teach and how your teachers are going to teach it, you will need to accurately evaluate where your students are in relation to the Common Core State Standards and easily identify the specific standards that need to be addressed.

8. Implement solutions to meet all of your students’ needs
   Schools and districts must ensure that all students have the ability to access the same curriculum through multiple means of learning and to provide meaningful opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge.

9. Monitor progress
   Have the appropriate infrastructure in place to continually monitor and benchmark your students against these standards to ensure success.

10. Reflect and reevaluate
   Is what you’re doing working?
Tools to Help you Transition

Edmentum’s™ Common Core standards mastery and assessment preparation programs provide instruction, practice, formative assessment, and real-time reporting to guide instruction based on state and Common Core standards. Edmentum’s suite of solutions help educators pinpoint academic strengths and weaknesses, differentiate their instruction, and target individual student needs through rigorous, standards-based content. The programs provide focused instruction and support, and with platforms uniquely designed to support educators as they implement the standards in their classrooms.

Study Island

Study Island’s programs are explicitly designed to help students master the content specified in state and Common Core standards. Study Island provides rigorous content for math and ELA for grades K-12, extensive Common Core transition support, teacher resources including videos and lesson plans to guide classroom instruction, and Common Core diagnostic pre-tests. Teachers can easily guide students through the program, customize their instruction based on student needs, communicate expectations, and create assignments.

Edmentum Assessments

Our Common Core Test Pack provides an assessment tool that helps you transition by measuring how students are performing against the Common Core State Standards, identifying which standards still need to be mastered, and prescribing individualized learning assignments that lead to comprehensive mastery.

PLATO Courseware

Plato Courseware provides proven, rigorous courses aligned to Common Core State Standards. Courses can be easily customized to align to your course objectives and transition plan. Supplemental lessons can be easily prescribed to help learners fill in skill gaps. With anytime, anywhere access, Plato Courseware can be implemented in a variety of classroom models to help you successfully transition to the Common Core State Standards and prepare learners for the new Common Core assessment.

EducationCity

EducationCity allows teachers to individualize their instruction and pinpoint activities linked to specific standards. The web-based teaching and learning resource differentiates instruction for whole-class, small group, or one-on-one instruction. Teachers are supported with classroom resources and Standards Maps that link standards-based learning objectives to student activities, all while tracking student success through real-time progress monitoring tools.