

Pedagogical Shifts demanded by the Common Core State Standards

The Common Core calls for making 12 shifts in terms of curricular materials and classroom instruction in order for teaching to be truly aligned with the standards. There are six shifts in mathematics and six shifts in English/language arts and literacy.

Shifts in English/Language Arts (ELA) and Literacy

Shift 1	Balancing Informational and Literary Text	Students read a true balance of both informational and literary texts.
Shift 2	Knowledge in the Disciplines	Students build knowledge about the world (domains/content areas) through TEXT rather than just the teacher or activities.
Shift 3	Staircase of Complexity	Students read the central, grade appropriate text around which instruction is centered. Teachers are patient and build more time, space, and support into the curriculum for close reading.
Shift 4	Text-based Answers	Students engage in rich and rigorous evidence based conversations about texts.
Shift 5	Writing from Sources	Writing emphasizes use of evidence from sources to inform or make an argument.
Shift 6	Academic Vocabulary	Students constantly build the transferable vocabulary they need to access grade level complex texts. This can be done effectively by spiraling like content in increasingly complex texts.

Shifts in Mathematics

Shift 1	Focus	Teachers significantly narrow and deepen the scope of how time and energy is spent in the mathematics classroom. They do so in order to focus deeply on only the concepts that are prioritized in the standards.
Shift 2	Coherence	Principals and teachers carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations developed in previous years.
Shift 3	Fluency	Students are expected to have speed and accuracy with simple calculations; teachers structure class time and/or homework time for students to memorize, through repetition, core functions.
Shift 4	Deep Understanding	Students deeply understand and can operate easily within a math concept before moving on. They learn more than the trick to get the answer right. They learn the math.
Shift 5	Application	Students are expected to use math and choose the appropriate concept for application even when they are not prompted to do so.
Shift 6	Dual Intensity	Students are practicing and understanding. There is more than a balance between these two things in the classroom – both are occurring with intensity.