



WHAT ARE THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?

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What are the Core Curriculum Content Standards?

- New Jersey adopted state standards for teaching and learning in the 1990s. We currently have standards in nine subject areas, known as the Core Curriculum Content Standards.
- The New Jersey State Board of Education voluntarily adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2010 to replace the previous English language arts and mathematics standards.

Standards vs. Curriculum

- What are academic standards?
 - Academic standards describe the knowledge and skills a student needs to acquire by the end of each school year.
- What is curriculum?
 - Curriculum is the school district's plan for day-to-day teaching of the concepts contained in the standards.

How were the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) developed?

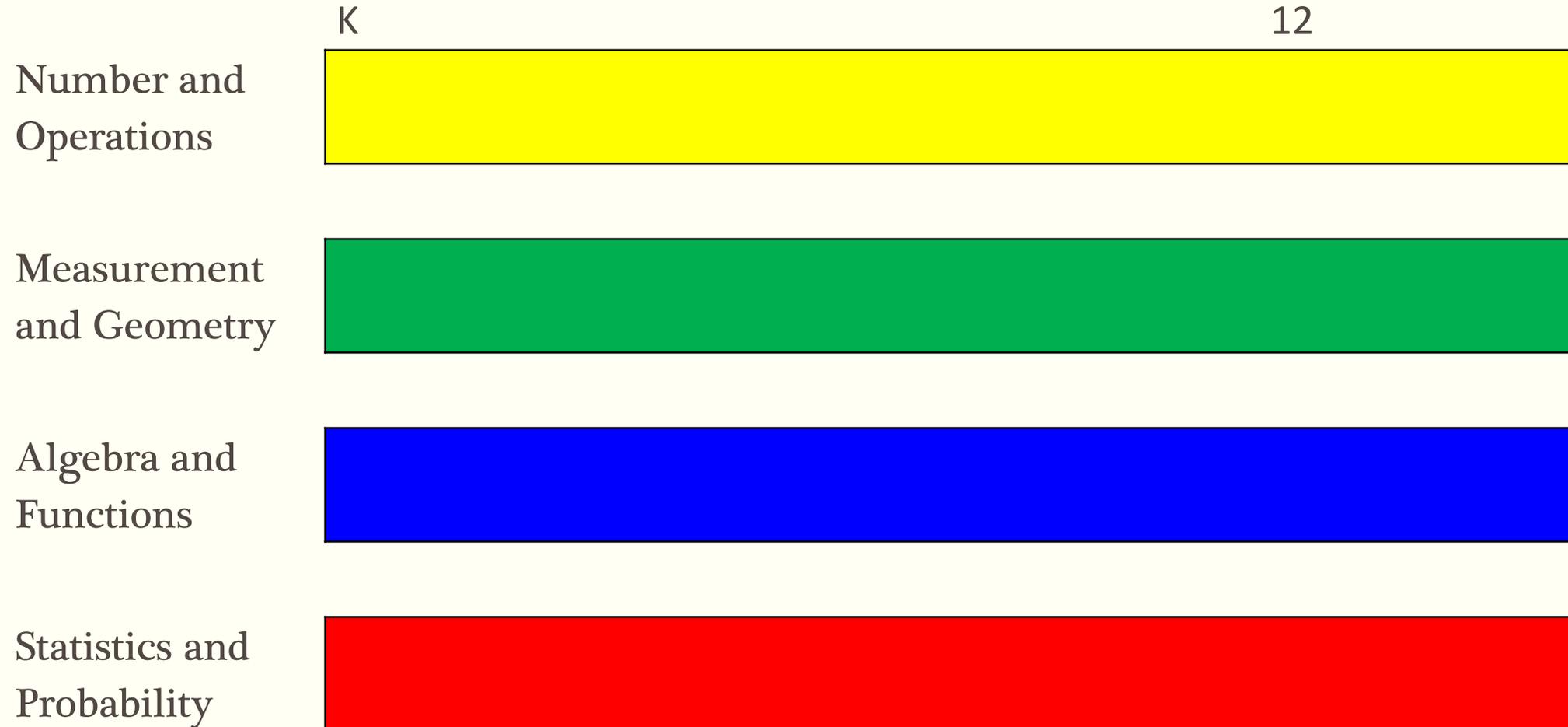
Created for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, the CCSS were designed by educators and academic experts, and inspired by standards from the world's highest-performing countries.



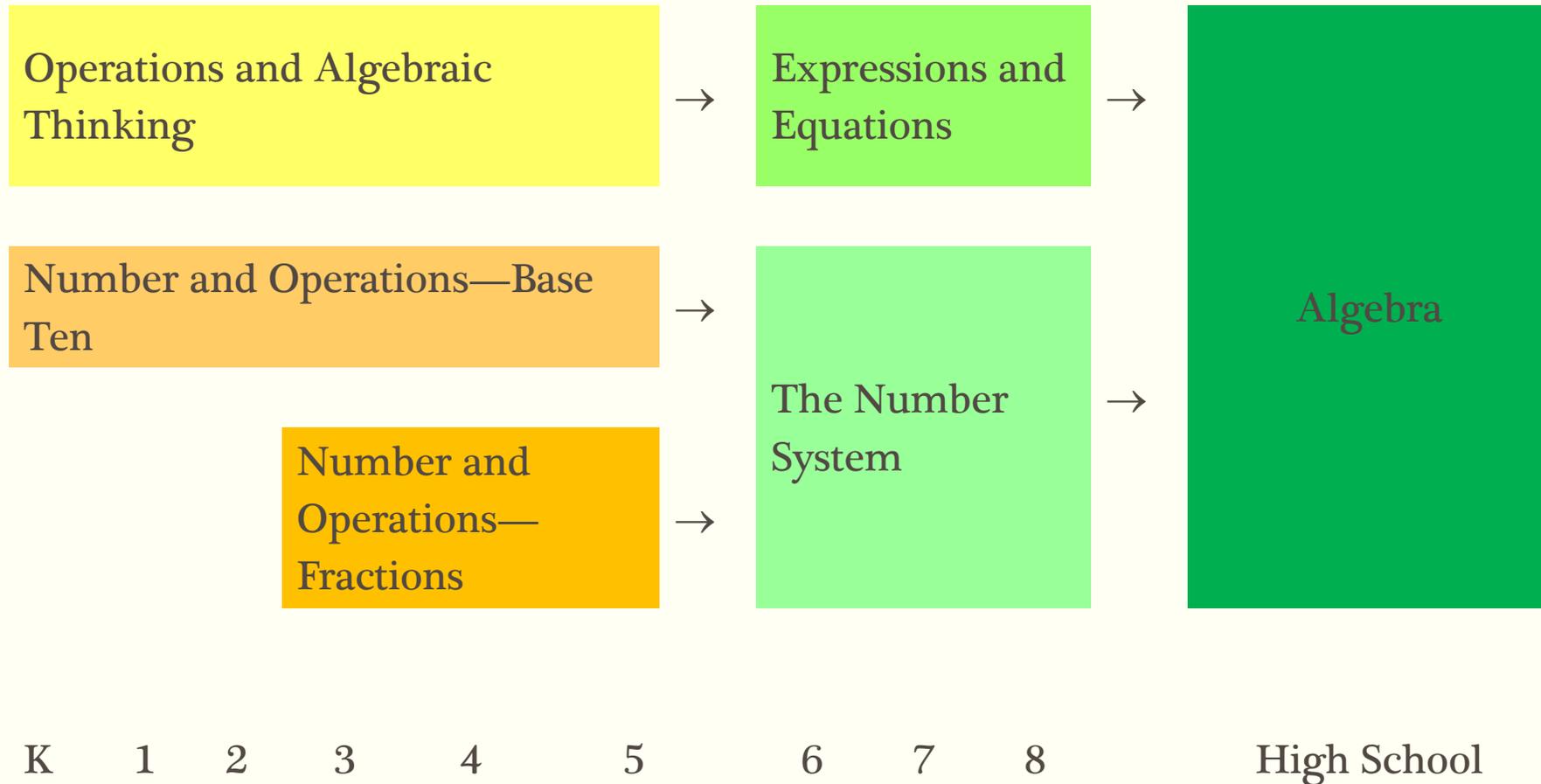
How will the Common Core State Standards change instruction?

- The CCSS give teachers and students the opportunity to explore the most important topics in greater depth.
- Students develop a deeper understanding of key concepts, and apply their knowledge to real-world situations.
- The focus is on: planning, researching and organization skills; learning and performing alone and in groups; new and multiple ways to solve problems; reading, writing, speaking and listening; all knowledge and skills required in college and the workplace.
- Curriculum, materials, and instructional decisions are still made at the local level.

Traditional U.S. Approach



Common Core Focus (within Number and Operations)



The CCSS Difference

Grade 3-5 ELA: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

| Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 |
|--|--|---|
| Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic | Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably | Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. |

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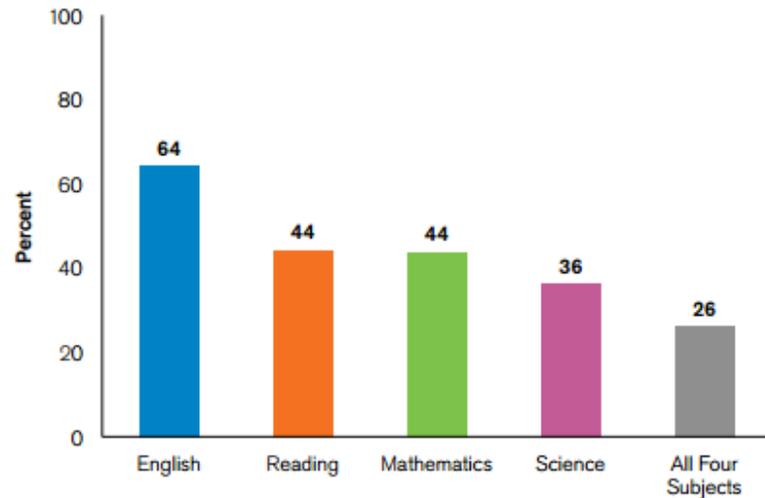
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What does it mean to be college & career ready?

College Readiness

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by Subject

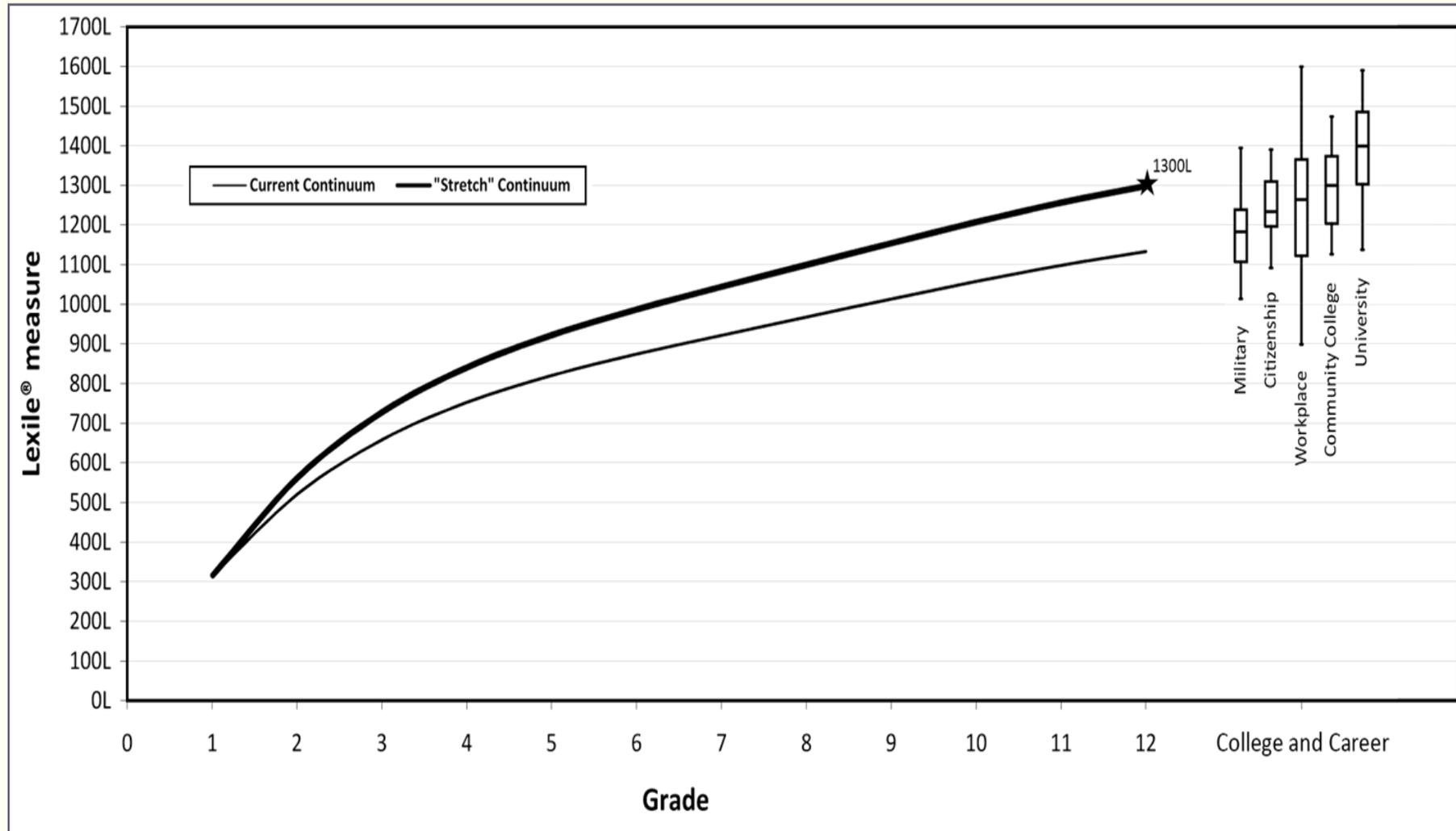
Percent of ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by Subject, 2013



In 2013, 64% of all ACT-tested high school graduates met the English ACT College Readiness Benchmark, while 26% met the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in all four subjects. Forty-four percent of graduates met the Reading Benchmark, and 44% met the Mathematics Benchmark. Just over 1 in 3 (36%) met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark in Science.

Graph reads: In 2013, 64% of ACT-tested high school graduates met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark in English.

How can PK-12 ensure all students are college and career ready?



You will notice some shifts... and that's a good thing!

- You will see children doing more than finding answers and completing tasks.
- You will hear them reasoning.
- You will notice more personalized learning.
- You will see them working through more complex problems.
- You will enjoy watching them read both literature and informational texts.

Suggested questions for increased parent and teacher partnership:

- “Is the child at the level where he/she should be at this point in the school year?”
- “Where is the child excelling and how can we help him/her grow even more?”
- “What do you think is giving the child the most trouble? How can we help the child improve in this area?”
- “What can we do to help the child with upcoming work?”

As a parent, what can I do to help my child succeed?

- Encourage your child to stick with it even when a problem becomes difficult.
- Help build independence and confidence in your child.
- Read to, with, and in front of your child and discuss what you read.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences and talk with your child's teacher about his/her strengths and weaknesses. Ask how you can best support your child at home.
- Ask questions and learn more about the CCSS in your child's classroom.
- Encourage your child's school to offer workshops for parents.



Panel members:

- ❖ **Cathy Lindenbaum**, Vice President of New Jersey PTA
- ❖ **Irene LeFebvre**, Boonton District School Board Member
- ❖ **Richard Allen**, Principal of Neptune High School
- ❖ **Barry Saide**, 5th grade teacher at Mount Prospect Elementary School in Bernards Township

