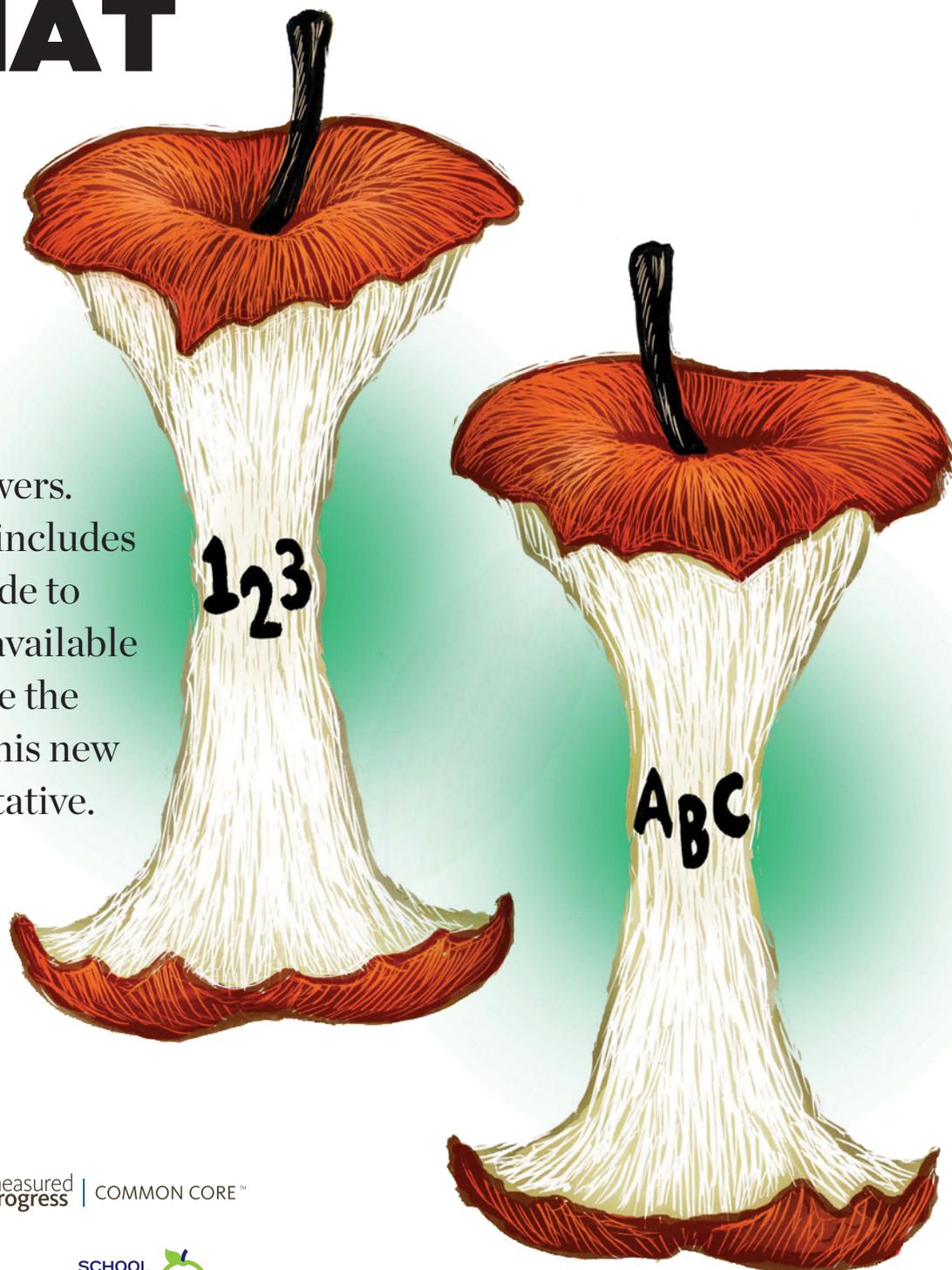


THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

The Common Core standards have been adopted by 45 states, opening the door for far more questions than answers. This special supplement includes expert opinions and a guide to the latest tools and apps available to help educators navigate the murky road to adopting this new teaching and learning initiative.



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SHIFTS AND ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMON CORE

By Eric Sheninger

At the 2012 ASCD Annual Conference, two facilitators shared input from educators in four states about the standards and the assistance needed to integrate them into schools and classrooms. They discussed the following key ELA Shifts:

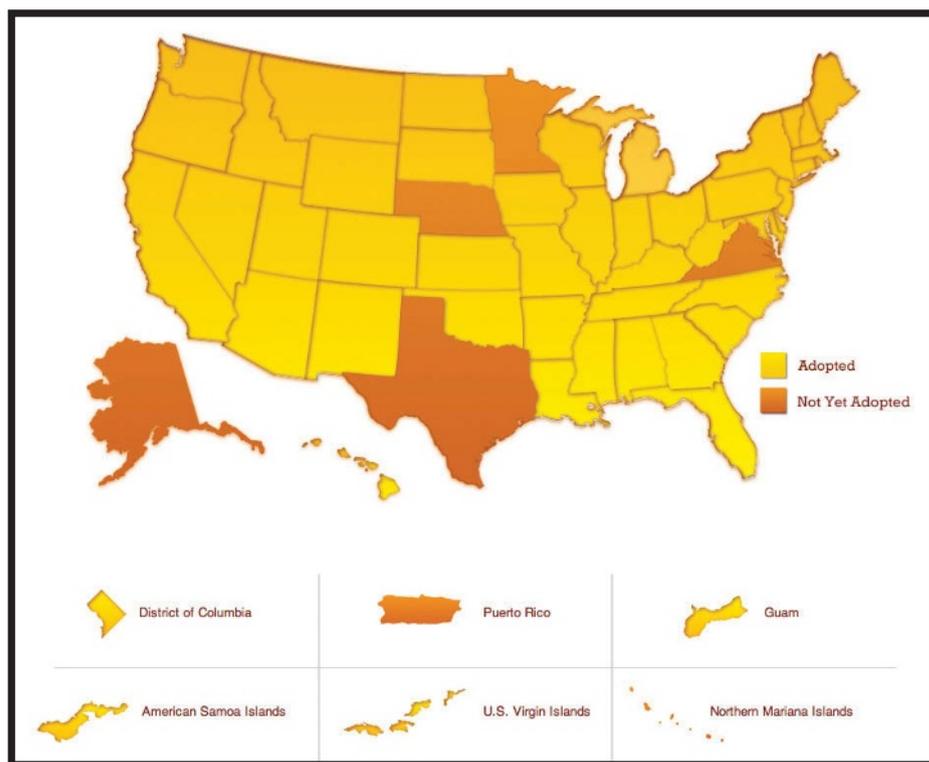
- Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction and informational texts.
- Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence.
- Regular practice with complex text (and its vocabulary).
- What can be done this year:
 - Teachers are aware of and understand the shifts required to implement.
 - Teachers can identify, evaluate, and develop text-dependent (evidentiary) questions.
 - Teachers begin reviewing existing materials to develop text-dependent questions.

And the following key Mathematical Shifts:

- Focus: focus strongly where the standards focus.
- Coherence: think across grades, and link to major topics.
- Rigor: require fluency, application, and deep understanding.
- What can be done this year:
 - Teachers are aware and understand shifts.
 - Teachers identify major work for grade.
 - Teachers begin reviewing existing materials to prepare for focus.

Case studies revealed approximately 50 percent of educators in Arkansas feel that they do not have the resources and tools necessary to successfully implement the Common Core State Standards. Their number one concern is the technological capacity to teach and assess students. Compounding this issue is the fact that there is no money to purchase what is needed to meet the expectations that will come along with these assessments. Rural states like Arkansas don't have the bandwidth to implement and support the assessments that are required. A key question that came out of this analysis was: how do we know what we buy today will be compatible in 2014-2015?

In North Carolina, 45 percent of educators feel that they do not have the resources and tools necessary to successfully implement the Common



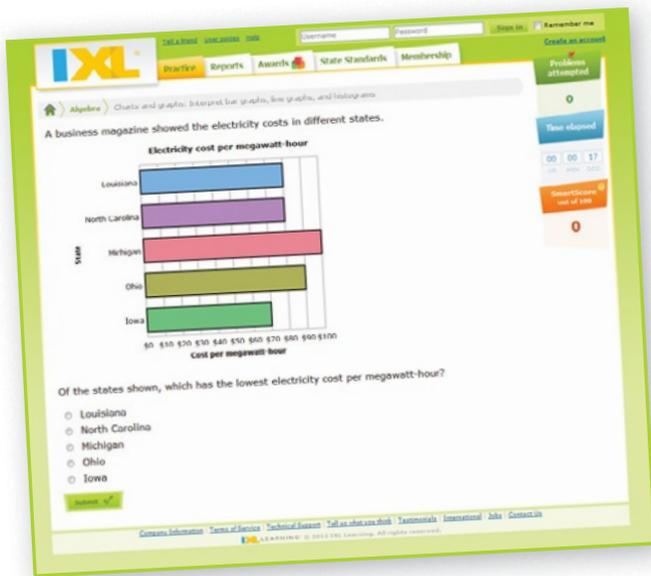
States that have formally adopted the Common Core State Standards (45 States, 3 territories)

Core State Standards. They are primarily concerned about the summative assessments linked to the standards. Utah educators were most concerned about the availability of professional development offerings.

Successful transition to the Common Core hinges on the amount of support that schools will receive from states (if any) and quality professional development opportunities. One trend that bothers me and many others is the fact that many stakeholder groups that do not have a vested interest in student achievement are raking in the cash while schools struggle to adapt to these changes. As long as this issue and others discussed above persist, resentment for this initiative will continue to grow.

Eric is the principal at New Milford High School located in Bergen County, N.J.

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—Sandye Kabalen, 6th grade math teacher
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WITH COMMON CORE AND NCLB, ARE WE MISSING THE POINT?

By Steven M. Baule, CIO Advisor

At the CIO Leadership Summit last September, hosted by *Tech & Learning* magazine, Melissa Dodd, CIO of Boston Public Schools, noted during an excellent presentation on the state of IT in her district that Massachusetts was the birthplace of American public education. That made me think—what would Horace Mann or the authors of the “Old Deluder Law” have to say about education today? Are we creating a common culture for all of America and providing students with the necessary tools to be successful in the same? Those men hoped that common public schools would allow all Americans to be integrated in a productive society and that children from the most desperate circumstances would be able to utilize public education to rise out of their current circumstances and be successful. Specifically, what would they think with regard to No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the Common Core State standards (CCSS) that are filling the nation’s educational thought bubbles at this point in time?

Mann would probably be quite happy with the focus on college and career readiness, but the lack of focus on citizenship and a shared American history and culture might unnerve him a bit. However, Mann has often been criticized as being anti-intellectual and too practical in his approach to American schooling. Those who want to focus on career and workplace readiness would definitely have a strong supporter in Mann. However, I think the entire lack of any strong push for a shared American culture via strong (or any) social studies standards or assessment would unnerve him a great deal. It is interesting to speak to social studies teachers about their views of the CCSS and other high-stakes testing. Although they enjoy not being under the high-stakes testing gun, they commonly comment that social studies, history, and government aren’t really part

of the “core content” in schools at the moment. Language arts and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) are the focus of nearly all of the national conversations about curriculum. Some play is given to world languages and the need to understand other cultures, but what about understanding the American culture (even with its focus on dead white men)? I think Mann would be disappointed in what would appear to him to be a lack of the Americanization of children through a common school experience.

Rev. John Cotton and the others who passed the Massachusetts General School Laws of 1642 and 1647 would definitely be unhappy with the focus on test scores. They would support the homogenizing effects of the CCSS curriculum, but they might be a little perturbed by the fact that science has replaced faith as a major focus. I am not at all sure where they would stand on standardized testing, but if I had to hazard a guess, I suspect they would be supportive of more local assessments and not proponents of standardization across all of the states. They wanted to homogenize their communities and not the necessarily the nation. Of course, they had sailing ships and the Internet wasn’t even a concept back then. (Any time traveler caught with a tablet would probably have been burnt as a witch.)

Perspectives shift over 300 years, so maybe the most important thing to consider is this: Will CCSS help students improve their lot in life? That was the focus of both John Cotton and Horace Mann as well as most of the early advocates of public education. How can we provide students with the best opportunities to succeed? What resources can we provide students to ensure their success? How can we leverage technology to reach out to the parents of our neediest students? Do you think the perspectives of Cotton, Mann, or others are worth considering? How about Bronson Alcott, John Dewey, or E.D. Hirsch?

The point is that we need to clearly identify what we wish for public schools to be, going forward. I am not sure that as educators we have thought about this enough. Some want us to move towards full-service community schools. Others want vouchers or virtual schools. I think as a profession it is time for educators to decide what we really want the mission of public education to be.

Steven M. Baule is superintendent of North Boone CUSD 200 in Poplar Grove, IL. He has written several books on aspects of library and technology management and planning.

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NEW TOOLS FOR THE COMMON CORE

Below are some of the latest tools for schools to add a Common Core spin to a new or existing product.

■ **Achieve3000** (www.achieve3000.com):

KidBiz3000 (2-5), TeenBiz3000 (6-8), Empower3000 (9-12), and Spark3000 (adults) enable students at all levels to master the content area literacy skills needed to meet the Common Core State Standards.

■ **Adaptive Curriculum Math** (www.adaptivecurriculum.com):

Designed for grades 6-12, the online AC Math program integrates real-world scenarios that align to state, national, and Common Core standards.

■ **Aha! Math** (www.learning.com):

Aha!Math is fully aligned to state and Common Core State Standards and provides tools to differentiate instruction.

■ **Atomic TechCore** (www.atomiclearning.com/k12):

A suite of tools for school leaders to build their Common Core implementation roadmaps.

■ **Common Core 360** (www.schoolimprovement.com):

A Web-based library of resources that helps educators understand what the Common Core Standards are, why they are needed, and how to implement them.



■ **CompassLearning Odyssey** (www.compasslearning.com/common-core): Odyssey adds new activities to support Common Core State Standards and new alignments so teachers can select the Common Core standards and learning paths.

■ **Digits** (www.digitmath.com):

Written entirely to the Common Core State Standards, this middle school math core curriculum leverages technology to personalize learning.



■ **DreamBox Learning Math** (www.dreambox.com):

DreamBox Learning combines elementary math aligned to the Common Core State Standards



with a motivating learning environment and the DreamBox Intelligent Adaptive Learning platform.

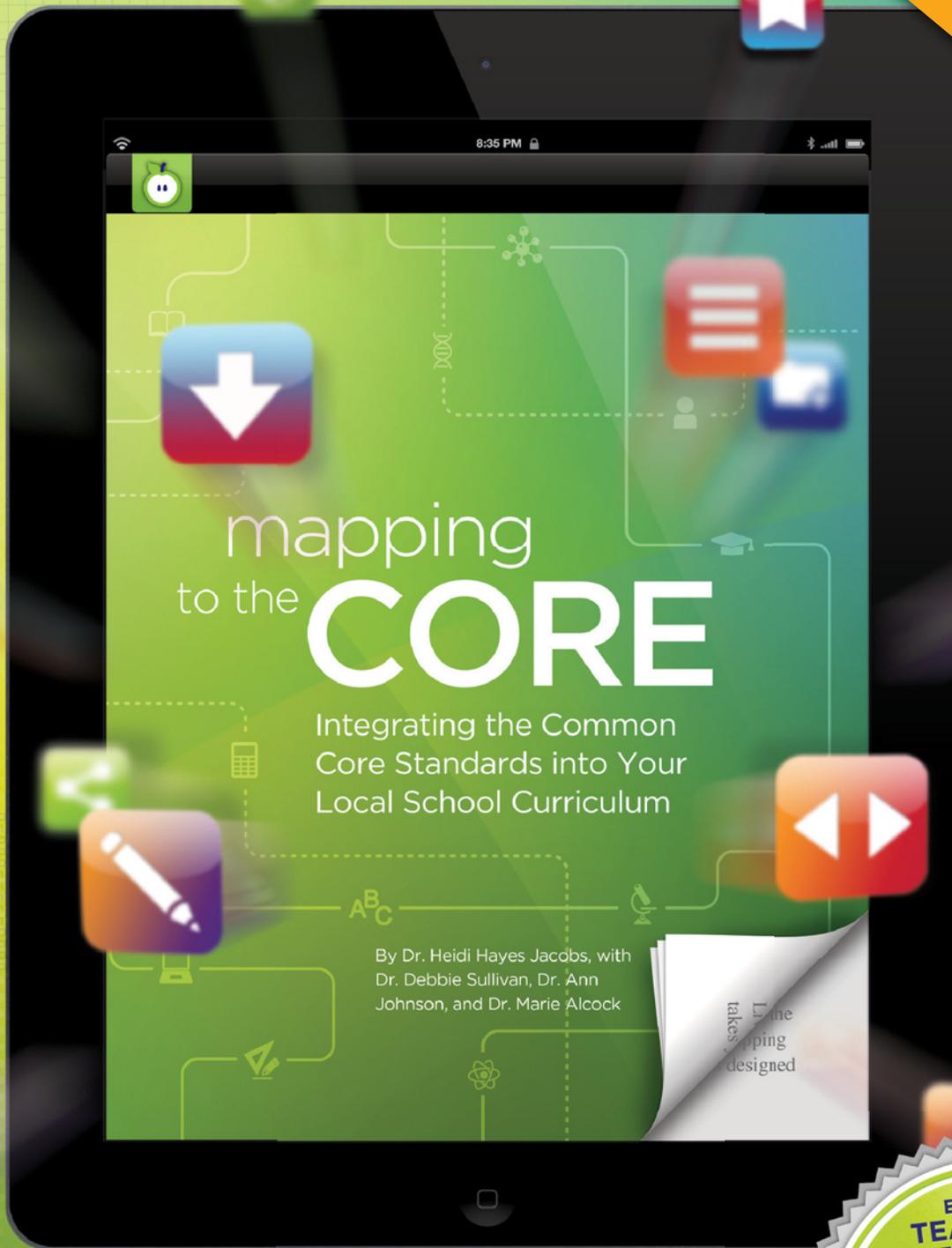
■ **ePals News Now Journalism Center** (www.epals.com): This new learning center helps high school students meet “real-world” journalism practices and communications standards, such as those required by the Common Core standards.

■ **Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument** (www.teachscape.com): Charlotte Danielson has updated her Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument with the 2013 Edition that incorporates the instructional implications of CCSS.

■ **Getting from Here to Core: How to Launch the Program that Launches Students** (www.CTB.com/CommonCore): A comprehensive eGuide that delivers a roadmap for schools to effectively shift to the Common Core assessments.

■ **GlobalScholar** (www.globalscholar.com): The company offers several products written 100% to meet CCSS, including:  Performance Series K-2 Reading & Mathematics assessments, National CCSS Progress Monitoring tests and a National CCSS Item Bank with additional items specific to Colorado’s 15% custom standards.

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Heidi Hayes Jacobs

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- **HMH Fuse: Algebra 1, Common Core Edition** (www.hmheducation.com): This edition gives every student a personalized learning experience using video tutorials, MathMotion examples, homework help, quizzes, tips, hints, and more.
- **HMH Readers** (www.hmheducation.com): HMH's new iPad reading app, developed for Common Core Standards mastery, is now available for free download in the iTunes App Store.
- **Insight** (www.learningstation.com): This cloud-based program enables administrators to quickly create assessments aligned with state and/or Common Core standards.
- **Inspiration Maps** (www.inspiration.com): Students use proven visual learning methodologies to develop and demonstrate the critical thinking, literacy, and writing skills delineated in the Common Core State Standards.
- **IXL Math** (www.ixl.com): This tool is completely aligned to the Common Core and state standards, offering a list of recommended practice skills for each strand, so teachers can easily find the appropriate skills for their students.
- **Lexia Reading Core5** (www.lexialearning.com): A technology-based program designed to systematically present content and skills identified as essential by the Common Core State Standards for ELA in grades K-5.
- **Measured Progress COMMON CORE Assessment Program** (MeasuredProgress.org/CommonCore): The language arts and math program for grades 3-11



includes targeted Testlets, a new Item Bank, and PD that guides teachers as they prepare for Common Core State Standards.

- **MimioReading** (www.Mimio.com): This supplemental reading comprehension program for grades 3-8 is correlated to the Common Core State Standards, using both individualized adaptive reading instruction and interactive whiteboard group lessons to improve reading test scores.
- **My Big Campus** (www.mybigcampus.com): Educators can now add custom, state, and



- Common Core standards to content and assignments in My Big Campus.
- **netTrekker Search by Knovention** (www.knovationlearning.com): The new netTrekker Search provides access to more than 330,000 digital resources aligned with state and Common Core standards.
- **NYLearns.org** (www.nyllearns.org): New York State's Curriculum Management and Standards-based system, featuring a combination of standards-based resources integrated with a suite of Web-based tools.
- **ODYSSEYWARE SPARC** (<http://info.odysseyware.com/newyear>): A new set of assessments and



instructional materials to help teachers identify competency levels against CCSS and provide supplemental materials for targeted skills remediation.

- **Open Punch** (www.meritsoftware.com): This program takes students through the Common Core Standard requirements of thinking and writing narrative, fact-based, and opinion paragraphs.
- **PBS KIDS PLAY! Classroom Edition** (www.pbskidsplay.org): An online, cross-curricular program for Pre-K to 1st grade that contains hundreds of interactive activities aligned to Common Core and McREL standards in math, science, language, creativity and more.
- **Peoples Education** (www.peopleseducation.com): This product suite, created specifically for the Common Core, includes blended, print, and digital approaches to assessment, instruction, and practice to target specific teaching and learning challenges.



- **Pearson Algebra 1 Common Core Edition iBook and Geometry Common Core Edition** (www.pearsonschool.com): Pearson's Algebra 1 Common Core Edition, in iBook format, brings educational content to life with video, audio, assessment, interactive images, and 3D animations. The Pearson Geometry Common Core Edition iBook addresses the CCSS throughout every lesson.



- **Reading Horizons Discovery** (www.readinghorizons.com): This program is designed to help K-5 students read by delivering material that meets and exceeds the Common Core for K-5 Foundational Skills standards.
- **Reading Wonders** (<http://mheonline.com>): A reading program designed specifically for the Common Core State Standards.
- **Ready Common Core** (www.curriculumassociates.com/products/ready-common-core.aspx): This multicomponent math and reading program was built for the Common Core. It offers students rigorous instruction and practice and teachers multilevel resources and tools.
- **Study Island** (www.studyisland.com): Study Island focuses on core skill areas related to state and Common Core standards, with a focus on math, reading/English language arts, science, and social studies.
- **Tales2Go** (www.tales2go.com): Tales2Go on mackinVIA gives multiple users access to thousands of audio books, which can be used for the Common Core "Speaking and Listening" standard.
- **Turnitin Writing Rubrics** (www.turnitin.com): Turnitin now offers open access to six writing rubrics aligned to the Common Core State Standards for grades 9-10 and 11-12.
- **Wowzers** (www.wowzers.com): Wowzers delivers math Common Core curriculum via story-driven games and activities.
- **WriteToLearn from Pearson** (www.writetolearn.net): WriteToLearn includes reading passages and essay prompts to support Common Core State Standards.
- **WriteSteps** (www.writestepswriting.com): WriteSteps is a digital and print K-5 Common Core writing and grammar program.
- **Reach for Reading** (www.cengage.com): This new K-5 Common Core reading program features traditional literature, paired with exclusive non-fiction content from National Geographic.
- **i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction** (<http://www.i-Ready.com/empower>): Built for the Common Core, this program combines a valid and reliable measure and personalized instruction in a single online product.
- **Zeos from Pearson** (www.pearsonschool.com/zeos): This online standards mastery program uses "gamification" to prepare students for current statewide assessments and the transition to new Common Core assessments.

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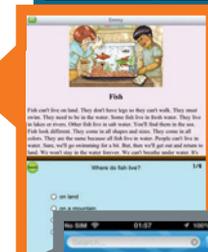
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THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

By Vicki Windman

COMMON CORE READING APPS

COMMON CORE STANDARD	APP	PRICE	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVEL
Reading Literature—Key Ideas and Details	Second Grade Reading Comprehension	\$2.99	This reading comprehension app has 20 fictional stories about children's daily lives. Users can also create and add their own stories to the app. Tracks student progress.	1-2
Reading Literature—Key Ideas and Details	21 Short Moral Stories with videos/voice recording	Parts 1-4: \$.99; 1-21: \$1.99	Record your voice and read the story or record a video of yourself reading the story. Non-readers can also have the automated voice read to them.	2-3
Reading Literature—Key Ideas and Details	Inspiration Maps	Lite version: Free; Full Version: \$9.99	Thirty pre-made graphic organizer templates for all grades, including reading notes, character analysis, plot analysis.	All grades
Craft and Structure	Poetry from the Poetry Foundation	FREE	Thousands of poems from classic to contemporary. Over 200 poems have audio for non-readers. https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/poetry-from-poetry-foundation/id370143863?mt=8	7
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Doodlecast for Kids	\$2.99	Comes with more than 20 drawing prompts, simple questions designed to give kids a starting point. The app records the drawing process along with audio to create videos.	K-5
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Doceri	FREE	Create hand-written or hand-drawn Doceri projects on your iPad, using the innovative Doceri timeline. Create, edit, replay, and perfect your hand-drawn or annotated presentation before you record, or record live during your presentation.	Middle- and high-school levels
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Educreations Interactive Whiteboard	FREE	Turns any iPad into a recordable whiteboard.	6-12
Reading—Informational Texts; Key Ideas and Details	Reading Comprehension first, second grade non-fiction	\$2.99	This non-fiction reading comprehension app has 20 stories about daily life. You can also create and add your own stories to the app. If a student does not know a word, they can hold the word and it will say and define the word.	K-2
Reading—Informational Texts; Key Ideas and Details	Minimod Reading for Details	\$3.99	Students read a passage followed by the 5W's of reading comprehension. The app can track student data.	3-7
Reading—Craft and Structure	Dictionary.com; Also on the Android operating system	FREE	Works offline; includes thesaurus and over 2,000,000 definitions, synonyms and antonyms.	All grades
Reading—Craft and Structure	Audio Dictionary	\$3.99	Includes 70,000 professionally-recorded audio pronunciations. 90,000 text pronunciations, fast searching, detailed definitions, synonyms, derived words, examples, and a great user interface. No Internet is required.	All grades
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	Tool4Students	Mobile Learning Services	25 graphic organizers that cover all common comprehension skills.	All grades
Reading—Foundational Skills	Letter School	\$2.99; Lite version available	Students discover the letter's shape, name, and sound.	Kindergarten



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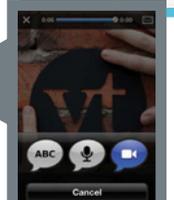


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COMMON CORE STANDARDS

COMMON CORE READING APPS

COMMON CORE STANDARD	APP	PRICE	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVEL
Reading—Foundational Skill; Phonological Awareness	ABC Phonics-word family	Lite Version: Free; Full Version: \$2.99	Phonics spelling, beginning sound, word family phonics, short-vowel sound, and images with a lot of animations and interactions for each word.	K-2
Reading—Foundational Skill; Phonological Awareness	Articulation Station Pro	Lite Version: Free; Full Version: \$39.99	Meets all the criteria of a good phonics-based app, tracks data, teaches children how to pronounce sounds with six engaging articulation activities.	K-2
Reading—Foundational Skill; Phonological Awareness	Phonics Genius	Free	6,000 words grouped by phonemes specifically designed to help students recognize and distinguish words by sounds.	K-2
Reading—Foundational Skill; Phonological Awareness	Simplex Spelling Phonics 2-Syllables	\$4.99	Phonics lessons, spelling and word patterns, syllabication, a unique “reverse phonics” approach, and contextually relevant spelling rules. Tracks data.	K-5
Reading—Foundational Skill; Phonological Awareness	Tic Tac Toe Interactive Phonics	FREE	Interactive game explores vowel sounds and syllables.	K-2
Writing	My Story-Book Maker	\$1.99	Draw, add your own photos, voice recording, and write books. These elements can be published and stored with your other iBooks.	Kindergarten-Middle School
Writing	How to write a paragraph	Lite Version: Free; Full Version: \$1.99	Students complete the prewriting, drafting, revising, and proofreading processes of writing a paragraph.	4-8
Writing	How to write an essay	Lite Version: Free; Full Version: \$1.99	Students learn how to write descriptive, narrative, informative, and persuasive essays.	6-12
Writing	Slingnotes	\$2.99	The app splits your screen into a writing pad and a Web browser; a great app for doing research and writing.	9-12
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration	Italk-recorder	Griffen Technology	This audio recorder has the ability to save questions and label them for future reference.	All grades
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration	Voicethread	FREE	Create and share dynamic conversations around documents, snapshots, diagrams, and videos.	All grades
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration—Language	Write My Name	\$3.99	This tracing app lets students write upper- and lowercase letters; includes 100 sight/Dolch words.	Kindergarten
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration—Language	Preposition Remix	\$9.99	Users are able to adjust the number of prepositions played with in a session. Teachers can adjust the type of feedback and cues provided to the student.	Kindergarten+
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration—Language	Rainbow Sentences	\$7.99	Students learn to construct grammatically correct sentences by using color-coded visual cues. Tracks data.	2-4
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration—Language	iLiveGrammar-Botany	\$4.99	Includes four levels. Nouns and verbs, adjectives and adverbs, prepositions, articles, nouns and conjunctions and review. Tracks data.	3-5
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration—Language	Spellboard	\$4.99	SpellBoard lets students review spelling words using a game format. In addition teachers can customize spelling lists.	1-12
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration—Language	Find The Synonym	FREE	Combine the seven letters in each game to find the synonym or antonym before the time runs out.	4-5
Speaking and Listening—Comprehension and Collaboration—Language	Figurative Language	\$8.99	Students read a short sentence, and then practice their understanding of figurative language. Each program offers three levels with controlled vocabulary.	4-10



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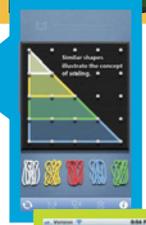
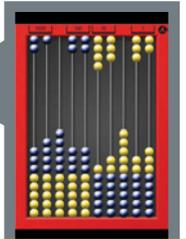
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COMMON CORE STANDARDS

COMMON CORE MATH APPS

COMMON CORE STANDARD	APP	PRICE	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVEL
Counting & Cardinality	AL Abacus	\$1.99	A must-have for all grades--especially for visual learners. Includes visualizing quantities, minimizing counting, and developing mental strategies.	All grades, but specifically geared for Kindergarten
Counting & Cardinality	The Counting Game. Works with Android	\$.99	Students learn to sequence numbers from 1-10. Students choose a number and count from the given number.	Kindergarten
Compare Numbers	Number Sense HD	\$.99	Includes five math games meeting all components of these standards.	Kindergarten
Counting & Cardinality	Candy Count	FREE	Four programs built into one app: sorting colors, counting 1-12, comparing quantities, and arranging numbers.	Kindergarten
Operations & Algebraic Thinking	Study Pad, Inc.	Full version: \$9.99	Students learn addition and subtraction. The apps track student progress. Includes a practice mode for students struggling with certain concepts and a built-in scratch pad for students to work out problems and not waste paper.	1-5
Operations & Algebraic Thinking	iLivemath-Farm Fresh	\$4.99	Uses word math problems that teach addition and subtraction. Divided into three levels. Includes data tracking.	K-4
Numbers & Operations in Base 10	Montessori Place Value	\$2.99	Students can review, practice, and expand place value math skills.	K-2
Numbers & Operations in Base 10	Stamp Game	\$4.99	Students explore solving problems with multi-digit numbers while playing this virtual stamp game.	2-5
Numbers & Operations in Base 10	Interactive Telling Time	\$2.99	Students learn to set the time via interactive clocks. Five levels. Tracks data.	1-2
Numbers & Operations in Base 10	Jungle Coins	\$2.99	Students identify and compare coins, count coin values, and calculate correct change. Tracks progress.	1-2
Numbers & Operations in Base 10	Graphs by Tap to Learn	FREE	Students learn to make graphs. Includes beginner or advanced levels. Data is tracked.	1-5
Measurement and Data	Tell-Time Interactive Elementary	Lite Version: \$1.99	Teaches students to tell time using eight topics. Tracks student data and sends home progress reports.	3-5
Measurement and Data	Measure Map Lite	FREE	Students measure distances, perimeters, and areas with laser-sharp precision. The app even takes into account the curvature of the earth's surface.	6-8
Number & Operations--Fractions	Jungle Fractions	\$2.99	Students use the app to convert fractions between improper and mixed format. Tracks data.	3-5
Number & Operations--Fractions	Motion Math	\$2.99	Motion Math gives learners a physical experience of the number line and an intuitive feeling for fractions.	3-5
Geometry, High School Geometry	Geometry (Mathomatix) K-1	FREE	Five geometry games built into one app.	K-8
Geometry, High School Geometry	Math App-Geometry 1	\$.99	Helps young math students understand and memorize the fundamental geometric facts and the basic set of geometric formulas through interactive displays and quizzes.	4-6
Geometry, High School Geometry	Geometry!!!	\$3.99	A large collection of geometry worksheets for iPad. Teachers can capture results in real-time and review student progress.	
Geometry, High School Geometry	Geoboard by Math Learning	FREE	Explores a variety of elementary and middle grade math topics. Learners stretch bands around pegs to form line segments and polygons and make discoveries about perimeter, area, angles, congruence, fractions, and more.	4-10
Geometry, High School Geometry	Geometry Pad for iPad	Free/\$4.99	Students create fundamental geometric shapes and change their properties and calculate metrics. The shapes are displayed on a scrollable and zoomable workbook.	5-8
Statistics and Probability	Statistics and Probability	\$1.99	This app helps students understand the basics of statistics in an organized manner.	6-8
Ratios and Proportional Relationships	Ratio!!!	\$3.99	Practice ratio, proportion, and percent worksheets on an iPad.	6-8
High School Algebra	Algebra Touch	\$1.99	The app teaches basics like simplification, communicatively, order of operations, factorization, and more.	9-12



COMMON CORE

COLE CANYON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MURIETTA, CALIF. IS SUCCEEDING WITH MIMIOREADING COMPREHENSION SUITE, COMBINED WITH MIMIOTEACH INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS. MIMIOREADING TEACHES READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES AND IS CORRELATED TO THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS.

Cole Canyon Elementary School in Murietta, Calif., enrolls approximately 1,150 students in grades K-5, 15% of which receive free or reduced-price lunches.

The teachers at Cole Canyon recognize that the technologies students enjoy outside of school make it more difficult to capture their attention with conventional tools like textbooks, chalkboards, dry-erase boards, overhead projectors, and wall-mounted TVs. To combat this problem, the school's principal, Mike Marble, initiated a 2011 pilot program with the MimioTeach™ interactive whiteboard, along with Mimio's online reading program, MimioReading™ comprehension, which improves the reading comprehension skills of students in grades 3-5. In August 2011, both products were placed in Anne Hess's 3rd-grade classroom.

"I've been teaching for over 25 years, and what I've observed is that often the problem with most technologies is the technology itself," says Hess. "Some technologies have a steep learning curve. Others are too difficult for teachers to integrate with their existing lesson plans. Still others fail to interest teachers and students after the initial excitement wears off. That's not true with the MimioTeach!"

Hess was invited to attend a training session the month before the MimioTeach interactive whiteboard arrived. "The very morning it arrived, I literally pulled it out of the box, plugged it into my computer and projector, and I was ready to start teaching," she says.

TECHNOLOGY THAT CHANGES THE GAME FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Hess reports that she easily adapted to the Mimio system because she didn't have to redesign her existing lesson plans to incorporate the technology. "With everything incorporated with the MimioTeach interactive whiteboard, the entire teaching and learning dynamic changed."

For example, over the years Hess had watched students struggle with the concept of finding the main idea in reading and comprehension activities. But that all changed when she incorporated the MimioReading program into her lesson plan to help her students master this skill.

In the program, students are encouraged to think about passages as being "mostly about" a particular topic, through a series of interactive activities. "For my students, the 'aha' moment comes when they can actually observe what the main idea is. Those colored balls represent the various sentences that work together to define the main idea — and they can SEE it," says Hess. Her students have transferred that skill to their written exams. "After reading the passage on an exam, they now count the sentences — putting numbers above the sentences that reference similar thoughts — and then they can easily answer the questions correctly after counting the numbers, just like they count the balls on the screen. It's just awesome," Hess reports.



FROM PILOT PROGRAM TO ESSENTIAL CLASSROOM TOOL

"The powerful MimioTeach and MimioReading combination has opened my eyes to different ways to teach particular ideas or concepts," Hess notes. "In the long run, this is going to help my students grasp concepts better and make teaching easier."

Principal Marble would like to add a MimioTeach interactive whiteboard to all six of the school's 3rd-grade classrooms, based on Hess's ringing endorsement. "This solution will give our teachers a way to step out of the traditional role of just 'instructing' and into one where they are facilitators to the learning process and the students are the active participants."

LEARN MORE AT MIMIO.COM/COLEGANYON.