



# Paramount Unified School District

## Educational Services

### PUSD and the California Common Core Standards

2012-13 was a year of raising awareness about the Common Core Standards in PUSD. In June, teams of elementary, middle and high school teachers will revise PUSD's curriculum guides, writing prompts and assessments so they begin to align with the Common Core Standards. Here are some of the changes planned for 2013-14:

Curriculum		
Grade	Language Arts	Math
K-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pacing guides will include evidence-based reading lessons ("Close Read") beginning second semester, revised writing prompts and the use of Thinking Maps.</li> <li>Posted writing assignments will include evidence-based writing and increased rigor. Writing lessons will also include the use of Thinking Maps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A math fluency program will be piloted in selected Kindergarten classrooms.</li> <li>Thinking Maps will be included in pacing guides for each math topic to provide students with opportunities to think critically and analytically.</li> <li>All grades 3-5 teachers will implement Problem of the Day, a math strategy that teaches students how to problem solve. As part of this process students are required to justify their responses, explain their thinking and critique the reasoning of others.</li> </ul>
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pacing guides will include an evidence-based reading lesson beginning second semester.</li> <li>Selected writing prompts will include evidence-based writing and increased rigor. Writing lessons will include the use of Thinking Maps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math pacing guides will include fall and spring lessons that align with the Common Core Math Practice Standards. These lessons provide students opportunities to analyze relationships, explain their reasoning and critique the reasoning of others.</li> </ul>
9-12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math pacing guides will include fall and spring lessons that align with the Common Core Math Practice Standards. These lessons provide students opportunities to analyze relationships, explain their reasoning and critique the reasoning of others.</li> </ul>

Assessment		
K-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In grades K-1, assessments will include writing prompts aligned to the Common Core. A Foundational Skills literacy assessment will be piloted in selected classrooms.</li> <li>In grades 2-5, assessments will include more rigorous comprehension questions and evidence-based writing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly math benchmark assessments will include constructed-response items that require students to provide a written response to selected questions.</li> </ul>
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly writing benchmarks will align to Common Core Standards.</li> </ul>	
9-12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly math benchmark assessments will include constructed-response items that require students to provide a written response to selected questions.</li> </ul>

## What's happening with Professional Development in 2013-14?

### Elementary and Middle Schools

*Write from the Beginning* is a writing program based on the use of *Thinking Maps* as a foundation for writing. The cognitive processes that are integral to *Thinking Maps* are directly aligned with and support the rigor of the Common Core Standards. Next year, all K-5 teachers and 6-8 teachers of ELA, math, science and social studies will attend a day of professional development on *Thinking Maps*. This will be supported with site learning walks and team collaboration.

*Common Core Lead Teachers* representing every elementary and middle school will attend meetings to learn about the standards and will implement Common Core strategies and lessons into instruction. Lead teachers will work with principals to share this information with others.

### High School

*Language Arts Common Core Lead Teachers* will participate in professional development on the shifts in the ELA standards, the role of college and career readiness and the new Smarter Balanced Assessment. Professional development for lead teachers will be presented by the Common Core Institute, a professional development team with expertise in the new standards, assessments and high school content.

*Math and ELA Common Core Lead Teachers* representing PHS, PHS West and Buena Vista will attend meetings to learn about the standards and will apply Common Core strategies to their teaching. Lead teachers will work with principals to share this information with their departments.



The following websites offer useful information about the Common Core Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessments:

- [cde.ca.gov](http://cde.ca.gov)
- [achievethecore.org](http://achievethecore.org)
- [commoncore.org](http://commoncore.org)
- [edmodo](http://edmodo)
- you tube (videos by the Hunt Institute)
- [smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/](http://smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/)