

Common Core Implementation Phase I 2013–2014

Awareness Building and Communication

- Establish a vision for our school community's transition to Common Core State Standards.
- Build sustained relationships within and across grade levels.
- Explore realistic and sound ways to implement the CC—taking small steps to adjust rigor across content areas.
- Communicate shifts to the greater school community

Instructional Shifts: Focus on Learning

- Scaffold, foster and support critical thinking in all classrooms
- Analyze current literacy initiatives and set goals for improvement
- Identify existing gaps in curriculum and develop a long term plan (Cross Curricular K–8 writing workshop)
- Writing across grade levels with a shift from persuasion to argumentation and textual evidence
- ELD shifts to reflect current research

Commitment and Support: Peer Observation Model

Peer observation is not a formal observation. The purpose of this tool is to enhance instructional practices and provide a forum for school wide collaboration. The goal is increased student achievement.

- Identify areas of need and their direct impact on student outcomes (best practices, ELL support, building rigor in the classroom)
- Gather information to understand teachers' needs and skills
- Foster a professional culture based on inquiry, reflection and professional development

Expectations and Accountability

- Shared responsibility across content and grade levels (spiraling of standards versus stair case progression)
- Consistent implementation of text layering and Close reading as instructional tools to enhance rigor in all classrooms
- Design curriculum maps and pacing guides in accordance with guidelines.
- School leadership team to facilitate opportunities for growth and learning

