What are the Common Core State Standards?

- The Common Core State Standards Initiative was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear academic standards for English language arts and mathematics that states may voluntarily adopt. The standards have been created based on the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country.
- The standards were created by a group of teachers, content experts, school administrators, and parents.
- The goal of the standards is to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.
- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were adopted by the Nevada State Board of Education in October of 2010. These standards are the foundation for curriculum design; instructional practice; and formative, interim, and summative assessments used at the state and local levels. Specifics on the state rollout of the CCSS can be found in the Nevada Transition Plan (https://bighorn.doe.nv.gov/sites/CommonCore).

The CCSS are different from the current Nevada State Standards. In some cases, concepts that are currently taught in one grade have moved to another. In other situations, concepts are still taught in the same grade, but the expectations might be more rigorous and concepts may be investigated more deeply.

At the middle school level, the writers of the CCSS suggest the curriculum be “compacted” in order to prepare students who have demonstrated deeper mathematical understanding to take Algebra I in 8th grade. In CCSD, this is accomplished by moving standards from higher grade levels to lower grade levels. Specifically, one-third of the 7th grade standards are placed into the Accelerated Mathematics 6 course. The Accelerated Mathematics 7 course consists of the remaining two-thirds of the 7th grade standards as well as two-thirds of the 8th grade standards. Finally, the 8th grade Algebra I course contains the remaining third of the 8th grade standards and the entire Algebra I curriculum. Below is a visual of the middle school accelerated mathematics compacted curriculum.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards Taught</th>
<th>Grade 6 CCSS</th>
<th>Grade 7 CCSS</th>
<th>Grade 8 CCSS</th>
<th>Algebra I CCSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compacted Curriculum</td>
<td>Accelerated Mathematics 6</td>
<td>Accelerated Mathematics 7</td>
<td>8th Grade Algebra I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The writers of the CCSS did not identify any standards above the regular standards of the Algebra I course; therefore, no honors-level Algebra I is offered. Honors credit is available in Geometry, Algebra II, and beyond.

Middle School Course Sequence

Note: Fundamentals of Mathematics is an elective course that schools may use to provide students at all levels with additional support in mathematics.

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