Making up a chant about the thirteen colonies and then recording it was awesome! My teacher calls it ‘arts integration,’ but we told her we call it FUN.

The change to Common Core is an opportunity for professional development and new ways for students to learn.

We held a ‘Common Core Coffee Night.’ It helped parents see how Common Core brings student learning to the next level by helping them to develop their critical thinking skills and express their depth of knowledge.

STATE PRIORITY AREA: CONDITIONS OF LEARNING

Implementation of State Standards

Implementation of State Standards means ensuring all students, including English Language Learners, have access to school programs and services based on California’s academic content and performance standards. This includes Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Math, Next Generation Science Standards, and English Language Development Standards. New learning standards help students develop critical thinking skills and prepare them to be civicly engaged and college and career ready.

Some ways schools can measure implementation of state standards include assessing:
- The number of teachers and staff who are trained and use instructional materials aligned with standards adopted by the State Board of Education.
- The number of programs and services that enable English language learners to access both the Common Core State Standards and the English Language Development Standards.

Learn more – get engaged!
- California Department of Education: www.cde.ca.gov/be/ls/ss/
- Association of California School Administrators: www.acsa.org/MainMenuCategories/ProfessionalLearning/TrainingsandEvents/TSS-ACSA-CC-Series.aspx
- California State PTA, Parent Guides to the Common Core State Standards: www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-standards.cfm
- California State PTA: www.capta.org/lcpp
- Also, be sure to check out your local school district’s website.

Key Questions to Ask About Implementation of State Standards

1. What is our school district’s timeline for implementing Common Core State Standards? How will the Common Core State Standards complement and/or change the teaching and learning that happens in the classroom?

2. How have our teachers and support staff received professional development in the new Common Core State Standards and how to effectively apply them in the classroom? Is there a plan for continuing professional development on Common Core instruction?

3. How is our district using our designated Common Core State Standards implementation money?

4. How can different areas of study be integrated into the Common Core State Standards to enhance learning? What role do the arts or career technical education play in implementing the Common Core State Standards? How will standards be closely aligned with new assessments, graduation requirements or college admission?

5. How can we ensure that all students have access to state standards academic content? Is there specialized professional development on the standards for teachers of English Language Learners, students with special needs, and other student populations?

6. What outreach efforts do we use so that all parents are aware of the new state standards and assessments? How do we engage parents in the development of goals to implement the new standards? Are we helping parents understand what will look different in their child’s classroom with the new standards and how parents can support in and out of school learning?