Common Core Standards
Alignment with SpringBoard®
English Textual Power™: Grades 6–12

Your Pathway to AP® and College Readiness

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) led the initiative to develop the Common Core State Standards. The Standards are the result of collaboration among many members of the education community, as well as input from the general public. The majority of states have now adopted these standards as the framework for their instruction in English language arts to provide a clear and consistent guide to preparing all students for college and career success.

The College Board is proud of its collaboration with other education professionals who helped to write and review the Common Core Standards for English language arts. As an original partner organization guiding the development of Common Core Standards, College Board staff served in multiple roles:

- Writing team for College and Career Readiness Standards
- Feedback group providing ongoing feedback and reviews of the K-12 standards
- Advisory group member (one of five organizations) guiding the Common Core initiative.

Implementing the Common Core

Over the next months, states will be adapting their English language arts curricula to incorporate the framework of the Core Standards. To achieve the goals of the Common Core Standards, it will be vitally important for curriculum materials to provide a pathway to instructional success. The Common Core Standards provide the “what” in the form of required achievements for students. Curriculum materials must provide the “how” to help students achieve the standards outlined. Through its focus on content, process, learning strategies, ongoing performance-based assessments, and unparalleled professional development, SpringBoard delivers the curriculum that will help all students and teachers reach the goals of the Common Core initiative.

The SpringBoard Advantage

The Common Core college and career readiness standards in English language arts outline student achievements that:

- Align with college and workplace expectations
- Include rigorous content and applications of knowledge
- Are based on evidence build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards.
SpringBoard fully supports these outcomes for English language arts. SpringBoard curriculum materials support student acquisition of the skills and knowledge to meet Common Core standards by:

- Providing engaging and relevant activities that allow students to develop the essential skills needed for success in college level work as well as in the workplace
- Incorporating appropriate rigor that challenges students by requiring them not only to apply concepts and skills, but also to explain the thinking behind their applications of knowledge
- Designing the program around evidence of what works in the classroom: research-based practices such as designing instruction with the end in mind, scaffolding activities to prepare students for increasing levels of rigor, integrating learning strategies that help students “learn how to learn”
- Integrating content that addresses key strengths found in current state standards; the rigor of the curriculum fully meets and often exceeds the expectations of key state standards.

**SpringBoard English Textual Power™ - Alignment to the Common Core Standards**

The Common Core Standards for English language arts are organized by individual grade level bands in middle school and configured as shared bands in high school (i.e., grades 9-10 and 11-12). Each performance band contains vertically articulated “Anchor Standards” for reading, writing, communication, and language.

With its already rigorous curriculum, the SpringBoard program is well aligned to the Common Core Standards. The SpringBoard curriculum not only meets the Core standards, but also quite often exceeds their performance expectations. SpringBoard adds value to the Common Core standards through its strong emphasis on reading analysis, writing in multiple modes, vocabulary acquisition, and language usage that builds from basic language acquisition through effective use of rhetoric and complex syntax.

**Reading Literary Text and Informational Texts**
The Common Core standards for reading are equally divided between literary and informational texts. The reading strand asks students to move beyond reading comprehension and analyze both literary and informational texts for content, stylistic technique, and organizational structure. The strength of the SpringBoard program continues to be the development of critical thinking and close reading skills through scaffolded instruction in preparation for reading and responding to the kind of literary and informational texts students will encounter in AP Literature and Composition as well as AP Language and Composition exams.

The Common Core Standards explicitly emphasize the examination of key reading concepts (e.g., paired passages, examining part-to-whole relationships within larger body of texts, integration of knowledge and ideas across subjects, etc.) within a particular grade level. SpringBoard addresses the standards and expectations listed in the Common Core; however, in some instances the alignments might occur the grade level before or after where it is specified in the Common Core Standards.

SpringBoard activities provide multiple opportunities for students to conduct a comparative analysis of texts to examine integrated knowledge and ideas, organizational structure, theme, and an author’s development of style.
Writing
SpringBoard contains a vertically articulated writing program that prepares students to exceed the writing performance expectations outlined in the writing strand of the Common Core standards. Together, SpringBoard activities and Writing Workshops deepen students’ knowledge of writing process, types, and purposes so that students can produce clear and coherent writing ready for publication.

The Embedded Assessments and Writing Workshops provide a comprehensive writing curriculum to foster effective teaching and learning to ensure that all students are prepared for the writing demands of high-stakes state assessments, Advanced Placement courses and exams, and college.

Communication
The Communication Strand of the Common Core Standards outlines the oral literacy and technology skills pertinent to success in the 21st century. SpringBoard contains a sophisticated progression of oral literacy and multimedia skills designed to develop students’ ability to speak, listen, and collaborate with others as they make meaning from, create, and present texts in a variety of media.

Language
SpringBoard is well aligned with the Common Core standards for grammar and conventions and vocabulary acquisition and use. SpringBoard’s instructional approach to language development is to present all new information within the context of an activity that students are to do. This approach ensures that students’ grammar and vocabulary use are developed through strategic reading and writing practices so that new concepts learned can be employed when students engage in writing and speaking tasks.

Phi Delta Kappa Stamp of Quality
SpringBoard claims about the quality and rigor of its products have been validated by an independent source. The Curriculum Management Audit Center of Phi Delta Kappa International recently completed an audit of the SpringBoard English language arts curriculum materials. The following quotes are from PDK’s highly-skilled auditors:

“Overall, the auditors found the SpringBoard program to include a high quality curriculum, with aligned and robust assessments and exemplary models of instructional practices. Professional development was also found to be of high quality, and it modeled the SpringBoard instructional practices within its delivery to teachers and administrators.”

“The auditors found that the program integrates many simulated, real-life activities that are both pertinent to today’s world and applicable in a wide variety of contexts. This increases the likelihood that the materials are preparing students for their future professional environment. Another aspect of this preparation is the degree to which students are engaged in critically evaluating different perspectives and approaches and are working cooperatively with one another. These are key skills for the future workplace, and the increase the likelihood students will be able to function in a diverse, challenging environment.”

“All the components deemed necessary for a quality written curriculum are present in the materials. The teacher’s editions were very strong in suggesting effective teaching strategies and student activities, and all activities were very student-centered and rigorous. The auditors found that the materials were strongest in allowing for different learning styles and interests within the classroom and in facilitating problem-solving and critical thinking....”

“Students who complete the SpringBoard program will have a substantively greater likelihood to be successful in post-secondary environments.”