Wowzers®

Common Core State Standards: Are you ready?

How to Select the Best Digital Common Core Content

Your Goal: a thorough and effective transition and implementation to the Common Core State Standards

Finding a **comprehensive digital Common Core solution** can be difficult. But, it's worth it. Selecting the right platform will make a world of difference for your students and your fellow educators.

This pamphlet will help you choose the digital Common Core content that enhances your students' learning and your schools efficiency!

Challenges Faced when seeking Common Core-based Content

Obviously, you must clear the age-old "budget" challenge. But, your digital Common Core content must also address many **new challenges** the standards present for students, teachers, and administrators.

Student Challenges	Teacher Challenges	Administrator Challenges
1. Have a Purpose		
• Ask and answer the question, "Why do I need to know this?" • Obtain connection between concepts being taught and application of the ideas in practical settings. • Reach higher on Bloom's taxonomy	• Teach the concept – YES! Teach to the test – NO! • Foster students to use critical and creative thinking skills regularly • Assess mastery instead of memorization.	• Encourage teachers to connect instructional content to student understanding. • Employ tools that support teachers in their mission. • Understanding the need for the 'deeper dive' into learning and instruction
2. Reach for the 'Deeper Dive'		
• Develop deeper understanding of concepts and application • Use manipulatives to demonstrate understanding of concept	• Scaffold student learning towards deeper understanding • Challenge students with higher-order material and project-based learning activities.	• Employ analytics that measure the depth of students' understanding. • Provide common instructional resources, while still allowing flexibility.
3. Maintain Visibility		
• Allow choice of content to match current skill • Self-drive learning at own pace and in ideal learning environment	• Visibility of student progress at different levels • Automatic grading and automatic reporting • Detailed understanding of RTI levels within classroom	• Need wide view to make the best decisions. • Understanding duration and effectiveness of instruction • Being aware of difficulty and variance of each unique standard
4. Tackle New Assessments		
• Need practice on computer-based tests (PARCC and Smarter Balanced) • Under high amounts of pressure to progress and succeed	• Receiving and providing feedback regarding a student's ability in real-time • Using CCSS assessments to promote long-term progress	• Need analytics that provide 'information' (not just data) on where reinforcement and extra effort is needed within school construct(s)

Five Questions your Common Core digital content must answer "Yes" to:

1. Was it created for the Common Core?

COMMON CORE
STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE
PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

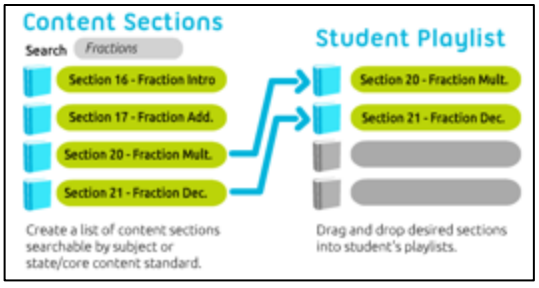
A lot of ineffective existing content is now being repurposed to align to Common Core. That doesn't cut it. Look for content created expressly for the Common Core, which requires a new kind of instruction, instead of just a content-to-standard alignment.

2. Was it created by educators?

You might be surprised, but some vendors outsource content creation to non-educators in efforts to decrease cost and increase production speed. This arguably decreases the effectiveness of the content and is something you'll want to avoid during your search.

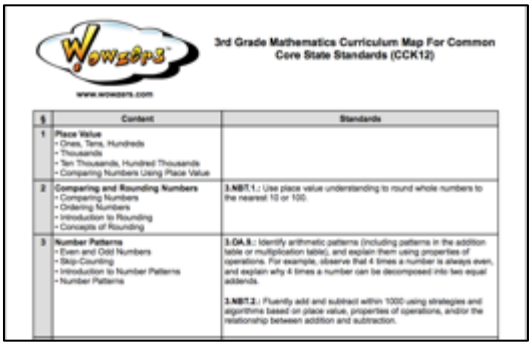
3. Does it extend the abilities of an educator?

Instead of just being the 'new way' of doing the 'old way', your digital content should extend instruction abilities in new and innovative ways. Look for features like auto-grading homework, the ability to engage students via fun, new methods, and easy-to-use CCSS reporting tools/ features that further enhance your educating abilities.



4. Does the content address the required depth of knowledge?

The Common Core State Standards require an increase in student understanding and real-life application. Your digital content must be comprehensive, both in knowledge depth and connection development. Ask yourself questions like, "Does it go deep enough to help raise your students' level of understanding up the Bloom's Taxonomy ladder?" or "Does this answer the 'why are we learning this' question?"



3rd Grade Mathematics Curriculum Map For Common Core State Standards (CCK12)

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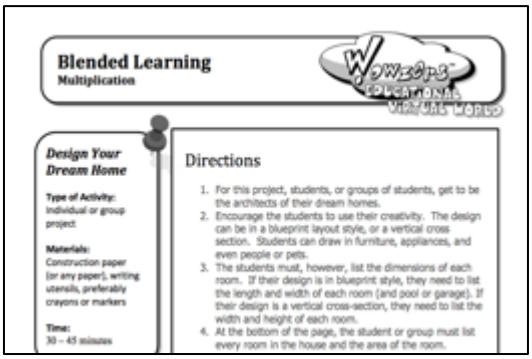
§	Content	Standards
1	**Place Value** • Ones, Tens, Hundreds • Thousands • Ten Thousands, Hundred Thousands • Comparing Numbers Using Place Value	
2	**Comparing and Rounding Numbers** • Comparing Numbers • Ordering Numbers • Introduction to Rounding • Concepts of Rounding	**3.NBT.1.:** Use place value understanding to round whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100.
3	**Number Patterns** • Even and Odd Numbers • Skip-Counting • Introduction to Number Patterns • Number Patterns	**3.OA.9.:** Identify arithmetic patterns (including patterns in the addition table or multiplication table), and explain them using properties of operations. For example, observe that 4 times a number is always even, and explain why 4 times a number can be decomposed into two equal addends. **3.NBT.2.:** Fluently add and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.



Blended Learning
Multiplication

WOWZERS EDUCATIONAL VIRTUAL WORLD

Design Your Dream Home

Type of Activity: Individual or group project

Materials: Construction paper (or any paper), writing utensils, preferably crayons or markers

Time: 30 – 45 minutes

Directions

1. For this project, students, or groups of students, get to be the architects of their dream homes.
2. Encourage the students to use their creativity. The design can be in a blueprint layout style, or a vertical cross section. Students can draw in furniture, appliances, and even people or pets.
3. The students must, however, list the dimensions of each room. If their design is in blueprint style, they need to list the length and width of each room (and pool or garage). If their design is a vertical cross-section, they need to list the width and height of each room.
4. At the bottom of the page, the student or group must list every room in the house and the area of the room.

5. Are the provided assessments designed to mirror and model the Common Core digital assessments?

The Common Core digital assessments (PARCC and Smarter Balanced) are computer-based, adaptive, and aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Does your adopted digital content help students practice the functionality and feel they also learn what is needed on the tests? If not, you may want to keep looking. **For more info on the CCSS assessments, go to http://info.wowzers.com/mastering-ccss-digital-math-assessments.**

PARCC
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

The Next Step...

The best way to experience the full abilities of digital Common Core content is to check them out yourself, while being cognizant of what the platforms functions and advantages the content must have to meet the needs of your fellow staff and students.

Wowzers®

About Wowzers:

Wowzers is an **adaptive online learning platform** that provides game-based learning solutions built from the **Common Core State Standards**.

Wowzers includes complete Common Core curriculum content for 3rd-8th grade.

For more on Wowzers, Contact us:

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