

Module I: What are the Common Core State Standards?

The intent of the Common Core Standards initiative is a set of common expectations for all students that will prepare them to be college and career ready. This initiative has tremendous implications for all educators. An understanding of the standards and how they affect classroom practices is important to effective implementation.

Participants will:

- Learn how the Common Core Standards are organized;
- Connect the local curriculum and course offerings to Common Core Standards;
- Examine the content and processes contained within the Common Core Standards; and
- Determine cross-curricular implications of Common Core Standards.

Module II: How do proficiency scales support Common Core implementation?

A proficiency scale is a continuum that articulates distinct levels of knowledge and skill relative to specific topics within Common Core State Standards. By identifying the simple and complex content and processes inherent within the standards, teachers develop consistency in their understanding and expectations. Participants will:

- Learn what a proficiency scale is and why they are necessary;
- Use a process for unpacking Common Core State Standards to develop proficiency scales;
- Examine considerations regarding proficiency scales as they relate to all students; and
- Explore the resources Marzano Research Laboratory has available to assist in the development of proficiency scales.

Module III: What instructional practices support Common Core implementation?

In order to be college and career ready, a specific skill set is needed by all students. Meaningful and relevant learning opportunities, aligned to Common Core State Standards, and that incorporate creative and critical 21st century skills and real-world experiences will be addressed in Module III. Participants will:

- Determine how proficiency scales can be used to scaffold and differentiate classroom instruction;
- Learn the distinctions of cognitive and conative skills, along with their impact on 21st century learning;
- Explore the ways assessment can help students set goals and monitor their progress toward Common Core content; and
- Explore ways to engage learners in their own learning.

Module IV: What assessment practices to support Common Core implementation?

Effective assessment development occurs best when teachers work collaboratively to establish sound and shared visions of curricula aligned to Common Core standards, clear instructional goals, and comprehensive school-wide systems for evaluating and reporting student performance. In Module IV, participants will:

- Explore variations among obtrusive, unobtrusive, and student-generated assessments;
- Connect assessment items types with Common Core knowledge and skills;
- Learn criteria for high-quality assessment items;
- Develop and correlate assessment items that align to Common Core proficiency scales; and
- Determine how local, state, and national assessments support Common Core implementation.