

Learn much more about the
Hawaii Common Core at
HawaiiPublicSchools.org 



The Hawaii Common Core sets out what our children need to know and be able to do in order to succeed in the 21st century no matter where they live. Until the implementation of the Hawaii Common Core, student learning was not consistent across our nation. A student attending one school might not learn what another student in the same grade level at another school would learn. With Hawaii at the crossroads of the Pacific, we are in a unique position to provide a quality education grounded in our cultural richness, while also preparing all students with the skills necessary for college, career and global citizenship.

The Hawaii Common Core was developed from the best education standards throughout the U.S. and the top performing nations around the world. These standards create clear expectations for what children should know and be able to do in key areas: reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics.

With Hawaii Common Core, all students will be taught with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the workforce upon graduation from high school.

"If we believe that the purpose of education is to equip and empower individuals with skills, knowledge, confidence, and a growth mindset so that they may take full advantage of any opportunity to contribute positively to our society, then the Hawaii Common Core will help us achieve our goal."

- **Yuuko L. Arikawa**, Hawaii's 2010 Milken Award Winner

"All students will maximize their potential, take heart and utilize the Hawaii Common Core as stepping stones to college- and career-readiness."

- **Sheena Alaiasa**, Principal, James B. Castle High; 2014 Middle Level Principal of the Year for Samuel Wilder King Intermediate, National Association of School Principals; Hawaii's 2013 Middle School Principal, National Association of Secondary School Principals

"Common Core will prepare our children for the opportunities and challenges they will face after high school and as they transition into adulthood. Hawaii's future business community is in good hands as the department continues to take a strategic approach to learning and skill building in our public school system."

- **Mitch D'Olier**, President/CEO, Kaneohe Ranch Company LLC, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

► **Other Common Core Resources:**

<http://www.achievethecore.org/parent-community-common-core/overview/>

<http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3552#Parent%20Guides>

<http://www.corestandards.org/>



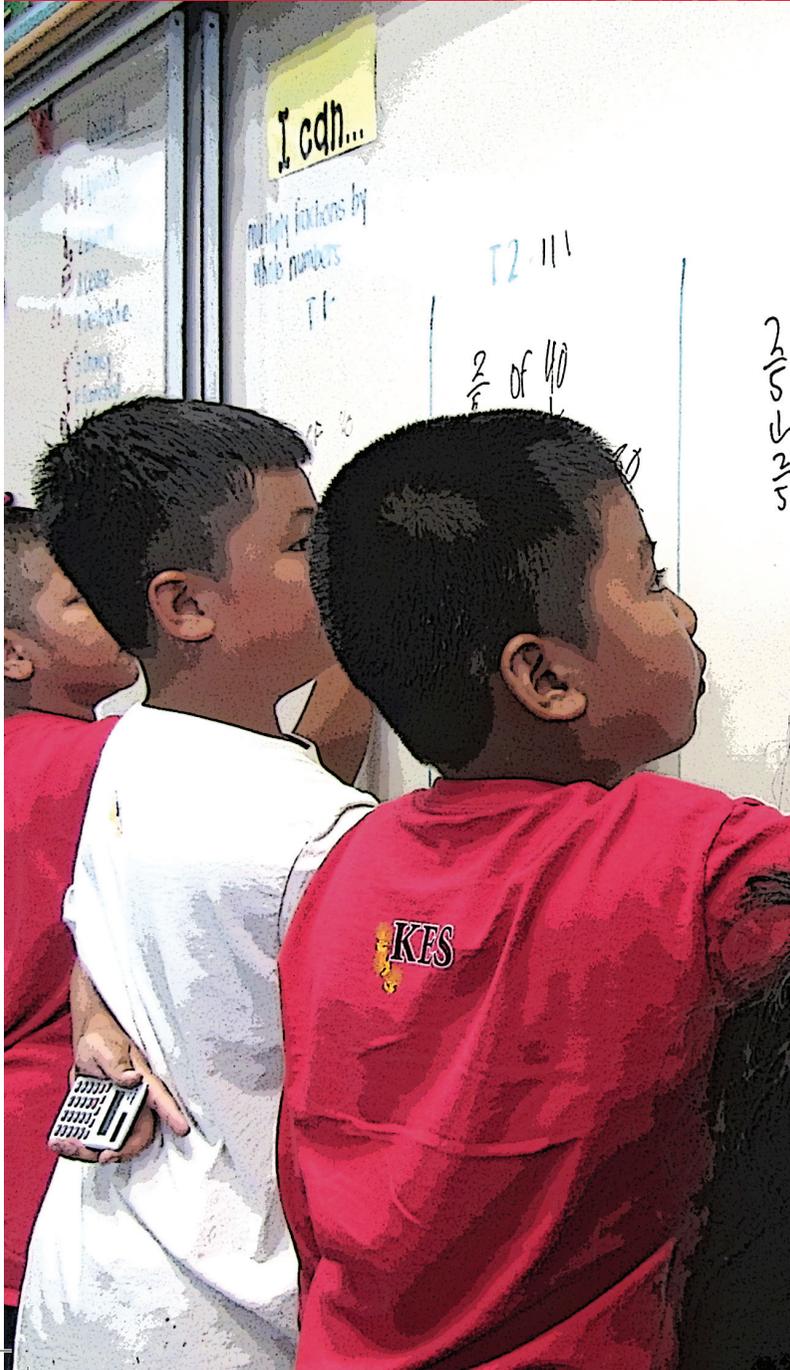
Striving Higher

with the Hawaii Common Core

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The Hawaii Common Core provides clear academic expectations for each grade level so that teachers, parents and students can work together toward shared goals.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What is the Hawaii Common Core?

A: The Hawaii Common Core is a set of consistent, high-quality academic standards that define the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each school year in order to graduate on time, ready for college and/or careers.

Q: Is Hawaii Common Core for just English language arts and mathematics?

A: Hawaii Common Core sets requirements not only for English language arts and mathematics but also for reading and writing in history/social studies, science and technical subjects.

Q: How is the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) measuring the effectiveness of the Hawaii Common Core?

A: Hawaii is part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which has developed tests aligned to the new standards. The system uses computer-based testing to the greatest extent possible to provide meaningful feedback and actionable data that teachers and other educators can use to help students succeed. Hawaii's transition to new Smarter Balanced tests aligned to Hawaii Common Core means that 2014-15 results – or the percentage of students proficient in English and math – are not comparable to previous years' scores. These results will establish a new baseline measuring the performance of Hawaii's students against a new set of learning expectations (the Hawaii Common Core) through a new test (the Smarter Balanced assessment).

Q: How can parents help prepare their children for Hawaii Common Core?

A: Parents can visit the DOE website and simply search for "Hawaii Common Core" or "Smarter Balanced" to learn more, watch informational videos and even take practice questions with sample English language arts and math covering all tested grades.

Parents can also meet with teachers to discuss what their child will be learning during the school year and play an active role in their education at home.

Q: Which grades have standardized tests?

A: The Hawaii Common Core will be taught at all levels; however testing will continue to be administered to certain grades – there will be no tests for children in kindergarten, first and second grades.

Q: Why do the tests begin at third grade?

A: Third grade is a crucial marker in a child's education. It is when students move from learning to read — decoding words using their knowledge of the alphabet — to reading to learn. Failure to read proficiently by the third grade is linked to higher rates of school dropout, less earning potential, as well as a decrease in the nation's competitiveness and general productivity.

Q: What does the Hawaii Common Core mean for business leaders and the state's economic future?

A: The standards will boost Hawaii's long-term economic competitiveness because students will graduate from high school with the skills they need to be successful in college and in the workforce. The standards will enable businesses in Hawaii to draw from local talent to meet the needs of a continuously evolving workplace.

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<http://www.achievethecore.org/parent-community-common-core/overview/>

<http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3552#Parent%20Guides>

<http://standardstoolkit.k12.hi.us/common-core/>

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