

## **The Common Core State Standards for Mathematics What Elementary School Parents & Guardians Need to Know**

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a practical way to prepare children for the challenges of a constantly changing world – by learning step-by-step the real-world skills they need for career and college. Like an orchestra learning a challenging new symphony, bringing these standards to life in our schools will take time and energy, and costs that must be managed over time. These standards are intended to provide all students regardless of geographical location with the same sheet music – that is the clear goals of career and college readiness.

### **What are the 6 Key Shifts in the Math Standards?**

1. Focus: learn more about fewer, key topics
2. Build skills within and across grades
3. Develop speed and accuracy
4. Really know it, Really do it!
5. Use it in the real world
6. Think fast AND solve problems

### **Will There Be New Tests for the New Standards?**

Yes, Vermont is a governing member of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). The consortium is developing new tests that will measure student progress toward career and college readiness. The new assessment will be administered in the spring of 2015. You may learn more about the new tests at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/>

### **How Will the Transition to the Common Core State Standards Impact Communication with Families?**

During the 2012-2013 school year we implemented a new math report card at Kindergarten and Grade 1. This past summer teachers with support from the BSD Curriculum Office and The Vermont Math Institute revised the report card for grades 2-5. These new report card template is part of a pilot and is intended reflect our shift to the Common Core. A new tool for reporting to families is a necessary step as we revise our curriculum and instructional practices. To review the updated report card templates visit: [BSD K-5 Report Cards \(www.bsdrv.org](http://www.bsdrv.org) – select Curriculum Department).

### **Common Core Resources for Parents:**

Council of the Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps: <http://www.cgcs.org//site/Default.aspx?PageID=244>

National Parent Teachers Association Guides <http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>

Video Overview of the Common Core Standards (3 minutes) <http://vimeo.com/51933492>