



California 2011 State Report

California, now a governing state in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, is committed to implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) adopted by the California State Board of Education (SBE) in August 2010. While it will take a number of years to develop new curriculum frameworks and instructional materials aligned to the CCSS, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson has invited publishers of state-adopted programs in mathematics and language arts to submit supplemental instructional materials that bridge the gap between their existing programs and the CCSS. Select teachers and content experts will review the supplemental materials, and the California Department of Education (CDE) will list on its Web site those materials found to meet the evaluation criteria. The process is completely voluntary for publishers, and the materials will not be adopted by the SBE. Yet, this information should help school districts significantly in their transition to the CCSS in light of the fact that the California State Legislature and Governor recently extended the suspension of SBE instructional materials adoptions until July 2015. Additionally, while school districts continue to receive state funding for instructional materials, they may transfer these funds to their general fund category and use them for “any educational purpose.” This budgetary flexibility extends to funds provided for 39 different state categorical programs (California *Education Code* Section 42605). Currently, there is no new adoption cycle in place, and it will require new law to set such a schedule. Nevertheless, many school districts do continue to purchase instructional materials as California continues to enforce the laws regarding textbook sufficiency, which state that every student must have access to instructional materials in the four core subjects both at school and at home.