



# COMMON GROUND

No. 4

A Communication Toolkit for Connecting  
San Mateo County to Common Core and SBAC

SHARE FEEDBACK

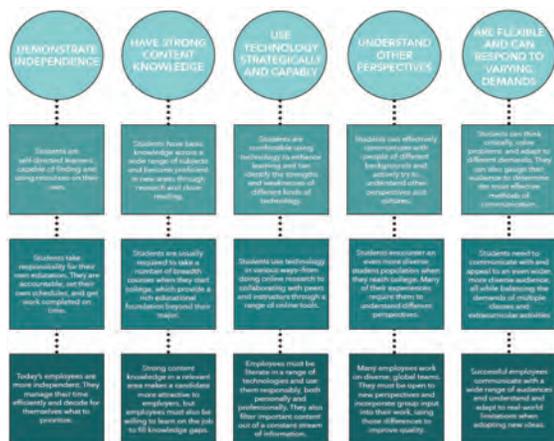
This week's essential question: **"What should students understand about their learning and real-world success?"**

Considering the technological advances of the past decade alone, ensuring that our students can think on their feet and adapt to ever-changing environments is critical to their success—both in college and in their careers. Our economy is changing dramatically, which means our education system needs to change with it. The new, more rigorous Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced assessments are helping California's students develop next-generation skills, including critical thinking and problem solving, that will help them succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy. These redesigned classroom standards are essential to providing our students with the skills necessary to build a society that excels in science, technology, engineering, and math.

**Sample Post:** Consider posting this essential question and answer to the parent resources section of your website or an FAQ page.

## FOR PARENTS

What exactly are next-generation skills, and how can we help students connect their learning to real life? Click on the tabs below to help students start understanding those valuable connections.



ENGLISH

SPANISH



**Sample Post:** Parents, you've heard talk about readiness for college and careers, but what exactly does it mean? What skills does a next-generation student need for success? Learn more from this chart that offers snapshots of student success in K-12, college, and career, adapted from the Common Core State Standards Initiative website: <http://bit.ly/1H4iFCn>

## FOR STUDENTS

Being college and career ready means different things to different people. In the videos below, students can hear from their peers about what "college and career ready" means to them. Share these video clips with students, and let the conversations begin!

ELEMENTARY

SECONDARY



You can also find many of these resources on the San Mateo County Office of Education website. Just visit <http://bit.ly/1EpMdXx>, and click on **Common Ground!**

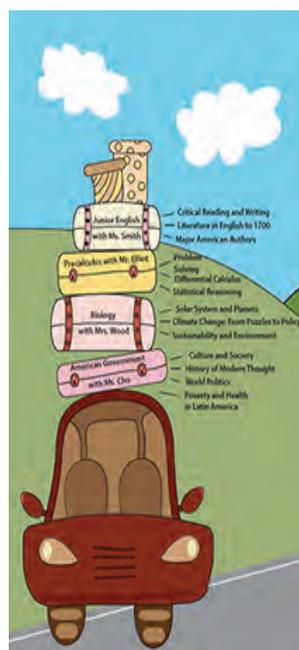
## FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

College and career readiness is a big focus of high school education, but schools don't have to wait until 9th grade to start preparing students for their futures. In fact, some programs have started introducing students as young as six to the idea of going to college—something that's especially important for students whose parents don't have college degrees. Check out the *New York Times* article below to learn how schools are incorporating writing assignments, college tours, and a touch of imagination to help our youngest learners connect school lessons to their own life-long success.

ARTICLE

## FUN FACTS

A study by the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) asked college instructors to rate the relevance of Common Core State Standards to the college-level courses they teach. Nearly **96%** of those surveyed responded that the standards are rigorous enough to adequately prepare students for their college coursework. To get more information about the survey, click on the tabs linked below.



ENGLISH

SPANISH



**Sample Tweet:** 96% of #highered instructors surveyed by @EPIC\_online say #CommonCore prepares students for college-level courses: <http://bit.ly/1F2IfHK>