



# COMMON GROUND

No. 5

A Communication Toolkit for Connecting  
San Mateo County to the New California Standards and SBAC

SHARE FEEDBACK

This week's essential question: **"How are teachers embracing the new California standards and assessment system?"**

The new California standards and assessments represent a significant shift in the landscape of education. Luckily, teachers are no strangers to challenges, and many educators see the Common Core as a big step toward helping students develop deeper understanding and giving teachers an opportunity to direct their own curriculum. Students will be asked to analyze, problem solve, and generate and test hypotheses, while teachers work to create classroom environments that foster the development of these higher-order thinking skills. In this way, teachers play one of the most critical roles in the success of this new system of learning.

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

## FOR TEACHERS



Teachers across the county have been hard at work implementing shifts in support of Common Core Standards. Click on the button below to gain more insight into the teacher perspective about what's working and

advice they offer their fellow educators. These teachers emphasize the importance of keeping parents in the loop and note such a deep instructional shift takes time.

TEACHER QUOTES

## FOR PARENTS

Have you wondered what CAASPP stands for, and how CAASPP and the Smarter Balanced assessments are related? This handout provides a concise overview of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

THE CAASPP  
UMBRELLA



ENGLISH

SPANISH

**Sample Post:** California's new assessment program is now titled the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASSPP). This spring, students across California may be participating in various assessments established by CAASPP. Learn more about what falls under the CAASPP umbrella in this handout.



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

"Great leaders don't just check the box," they act with **intentional influence** and become living examples of their school's vision. Read more about this amazing moment in the evolution of our educational system and the opportunity it provides for **Great Leaders** like you!

ARTICLE

## FOR TEACHERS

What should students practice before taking the Smarter Balanced assessments? How do I best support my students throughout the process? What can I do on the day of the test to make it easier for kids? Find answers to all these questions and more with our testing tips for teachers.

HANDOUT

## FUN FACTS

How have teachers played a role in creating and administering the Smarter Balanced assessments?

4,700

Educators contributed to the creation of the Smarter Balanced system

Helped to develop and review the test questions

745

Created the tools in the Digital Library, a rich collection of resources to support teachers

2,186,564

Students in California have started Smarter Balanced testing

1,298

INFOGRAPHIC



**Sample Tweet:** Did you know that more than 4,700 educators contributed to the creation of the @SmarterBalanced assessments? #SBAC <http://t.co/rialesHBKf>