

### DIGITAL CURRICULUM SOLUTION

*“Content publishers have long been focused on developing content and then aligning it to national and state standards. Apex Learning has always started with the standards, on which we’ve based the development of our online courses. After a thorough evaluation of the learning expectations the Common Core establish, we can go further than aligning existing instructional content to the new Standards.”*

Cheryl Vedoe  
CEO  
Apex Learning

### New Common Core Courses\*

#### English Language Arts

- English I
- English II
- English III
- English IV

#### Mathematics

- Algebra I
- Algebra II
- Geometry
- 4th-year math

*\*English I will be available during the 2012-2013 school year with the other courses to follow.*

## ➤ New Digital Curriculum Developed for Common Core

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a clear and consistent framework for student learning and ensure college and career readiness. The new Apex Learning courses in math and English language arts fully align to and incorporate the instructional intent of the CCSS including rigorous instruction, active learning experiences, and meaningful assessment.

### Ensuring Rigor for Academic Success

These courses are created in-house by a team of education experts with the same focus on research-based best practices in learning as the CCSS. Students develop critical thinking skills through challenging but achievable tasks, with opt-in scaffolding and supports to meet students at their learning readiness level. Instruction builds in complexity and depth across each course from ninth through twelfth grade.

### Providing Active Learning Experiences

Students engage in meaningful and active learning experiences through a balance of reading, observing, listening, watching, and doing. These interactive learning opportunities occur through a variety of activity types in each course, building students’ critical thinking skills and deepening their knowledge.

### Assessing Student Knowledge

Formative and summative assessments are integrated throughout each course. Frequent formative assessment and timely feedback reveal student understanding and inform instruction and intervention, while summative assessment measures and reports learning outcomes.

## English Language Arts

The English language arts courses address each standard as well as the instructional intent of the four key areas outlined by the CCSS: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language.

**Reading.** Students read a range of texts that reflect diverse authors and genres with an emphasis on informational texts. Instruction is focused on an initial reading of the text followed by guided analysis which will rely on secondary texts and discussion with teacher and peers. Students develop the skills to read with understanding and analyze a variety of types of texts with confidence.

**Writing.** Instruction emphasizes writing arguments and using evidence to prove a thesis, and students use different written and presentation formats in their work. Students write with increasing length and complexity throughout a unit, throughout a course, and across all English language arts courses.

**Speaking and Listening.** Students engage with a variety of media types to analyze and synthesize information, create presentations, and present their work.

**Language.** Students have opportunities to develop and practice language skills throughout each unit with an emphasis on the specific text being studied. Integrated word and concept definitions support students as they expand their vocabulary and improve language skills.

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*“With Common Core State Standards and assessments, students will have the opportunity to develop the critical thinking and analytical skills necessary to succeed after high school and compete with peers across the state line and across the ocean.”*

*Bob Wise  
President  
Alliance for Excellent Education*

### Mathematics Courses

The math courses address the standards in mathematics, which focus on the ability of students to demonstrate conceptual understanding, show and explain their work, and apply this knowledge to everyday life.

**Focus and Progression.** Standards are organized by strand, with fewer concepts covered in greater depth.

**Build Abstract Reasoning.** Analysis and reasoning skills are embedded throughout to help students develop independent critical thinking skills.

**Model with Mathematics.** Students use appropriate mathematics to analyze situations, understand them better, and improve decision-making skills.

### Intentional Assessment Design

Apex Learning assessments are intentionally designed to meet the Common Core State Standards. Test items represent the variety of item types found on PARCC and SBAC assessments. In addition to computer-scored tests, students demonstrate proficiency in performance tasks through teacher-scored assessments. Through a combination of formative and summative assessments, students gain experience and confidence with the design of the CCSS-related assessments.

### Seamless Transition to the Common Core State Standards

Through customized professional development services, educators become immersed in the CCSS while simultaneously gaining expertise using Apex Learning digital curriculum. The highly responsive Apex Learning services team uses its expertise with the CCSS to guide educators. Other supports include numerous on-demand tools such as how-to videos, complimentary webinars, and quarterly newsletters. These comprehensive services help schools and educators get up to speed quickly.

### ➤ Prepare Students for College and Work

Like all Apex Learning online courses, the new math and English language arts courses based on the Common Core State Standards are designed to take full advantage of technology and media to engage students in active learning, support all students in mastering rigorous content, and help students achieve academic success.