



Content Standards answer the question:

What knowledge, concepts and skills should our students acquire at each grade level?

Content standards are critical for making sure that teachers know what is to be taught; children know what is to be learned; and parents and the public can determine how well the concepts are being learned.

The following table compares the 2007 South Carolina Mathematics Standards and the 2008 South Carolina English Language Arts (ELA) Standards with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in ELA and Math using the *Common Core State Standards Initiative Comparative Review Report*,ⁱ which was published in 2010. A comparison of the two sets of standards resulted in a report on the alignment between the two sets of standards. A content-to-content review was done as well as examination of rigor. Although “in many cases, the CCSS exceeded the rigor of the current SC standards,”ⁱⁱ the report only reported the percentage of CCSS standards that *met or exceeded* the rigor of 2008 standards.

Comparison of 2008 SC ELA Standards and Common Core Standards in ELA	
Alignment of Content among all grade levels:	98%
*Alignment of Cognitive Level among all grade levels:	94%

*The CCSS were equivalent to or exceeded the demand of the 2008 ELA standards.

Comparison of 2007 SC Math Standards and Common Core Standards in Math	
Alignment of Content among all grade levels:	97%
*Alignment of Cognitive Level among all grade levels:	87%

*The CCSS were equivalent to or exceeded the demand of the 2007 Math standards.

Weaknesses of SC 2008 ELA and 2007 Math standards from *Fordham Institute*:

ELA – “woefully vague and repetitive, despite some good content.” (F ordham Grade: D)

Math – “the standards neither prioritize nor support the arithmetic skills that students need and therefore fail to provide the guidance K-12 teachers need to truly prepare students for college mathematics.” (Fordham Grade: C)

The following table compares the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in ELA and Math and the current SC College and Career-Ready (SCCCR) ELA and Math standards, which have received first reading approval from the SC State Board of Education. The alignment comparisons of content and rigor were done by the staff of the EOC using the complete, original text of each set of standards. Professional judgment was used in doing the analyses and the results have not been independently verified.

Comparison of Common Core Standards in ELA and SC College and Career-Ready (SCCCR) ELA Standards	
Alignment of Content among all grade levels:	89%
Percent of SCCR ELA Standards that meet or exceed the demands of CCSS	100%
*Percent of SCCR ELA Standards that exceed the demands of CCSS	18%

*determined by *Revised Bloom's Taxonomy* structure and/or demand of standard.

Comparison of Common Core Standards in Math and SC College and Career-Ready (SCCCR) Math Standards	
Alignment of Content among all grade levels:	92%
Percent of SCCR Math Standards that meet or exceed the demands of CCSS	100%
*Percent of SCCR Math Standards that exceed the demands of CCSS	15%

*determined by *Revised Blooms Taxonomy* structure and/or demand of standard.

SCCCR Standards in Math:

- Greater emphasis on number fluency in K and 1st grade
- Inclusion of instruction in coins & money in grades 1 and 4.
- Inclusion of fluency in multiplication tables in grade 4.
- Greater emphasis on data and measurement in elementary grades.
- Greater skill progression from middle to high school.
- Greater emphasis on data analysis
- Inclusion of graduation standards that all students (college and career) should meet
- In grades 9-12, standards identified by course and not grade spans as in CCSS
- Inclusion of Precalculus and calculus courses in HS.

SCCCR Standards in English Language Arts:

- Inclusion of cursive writing in grades 2 and 3.
- Principles of Reading included as standards within each grade band.
- Inquiry-based Literacy Standards included within each grade band.
- Appendixes of CCSS removed from standards, which includes text exemplars.
- Standards often exceed the demands of CCSS, particularly in the early grades.

¹ Common Core State Standards Initiative Comparative Review Report (2010)

<http://www.eoc.sc.gov/Reports%20%20Publications/Current%20Reports%202008-14/Standards/CCSSReportFINAL0604.pdf>

