

# 6th grade common core math curriculum

## 6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum: A Guide to Building Strong Foundations

**6th grade common core math curriculum** marks an important step in a student's mathematical journey. By this stage, students are transitioning from basic arithmetic to more complex concepts that will prepare them for higher-level math in middle and high school. Understanding what this curriculum entails can help parents, teachers, and students themselves navigate the year with confidence and curiosity. Let's explore what the 6th grade Common Core math curriculum includes, why it matters, and how to get the most out of it.

## What Is the 6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum?

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were developed to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn at each grade level across the United States. For 6th grade math, the curriculum focuses on expanding number sense, introducing introductory algebraic thinking, and deepening understanding of geometry and data analysis.

Unlike earlier grades where the emphasis was primarily on mastering operations with whole numbers, the 6th grade curriculum challenges students to work with fractions, decimals, ratios, and proportions. It also introduces variables and simple equations, laying the groundwork for algebra.

## Key Domains Covered in 6th Grade Math

The curriculum is divided into several key domains, each focusing on a critical area of math:

- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships:** Students learn to understand ratios and use them to solve real-world problems.
- **The Number System:** This includes operations with fractions, decimals, and negative numbers, as well as understanding the concept of absolute value.
- **Expressions and Equations:** Introduction to variables, writing and evaluating expressions, and solving one-step equations.
- **Geometry:** Understanding area, surface area, and volume, as well as working with coordinate planes.

- **Statistics and Probability:** Collecting and analyzing data, understanding measures of center (mean, median, mode), and interpreting graphs.

Each domain builds on previous knowledge and encourages students to apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

## Why the 6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum Matters

At this stage, students are not just learning math facts; they are developing mathematical reasoning abilities that are crucial for success in later grades. The 6th grade curriculum emphasizes conceptual understanding alongside procedural skills, meaning students learn the “why” behind the math.

This balanced approach helps:

- **Improve Problem-Solving Skills:** By working through word problems and real-life scenarios, students learn to apply math to everyday situations.
- **Prepare for Algebra:** Early exposure to variables and equations makes the leap to Algebra 1 less intimidating.
- **Build Number Sense:** Mastery of fractions, decimals, and negative numbers is essential for advanced math topics.
- **Encourage Mathematical Communication:** Students practice explaining their thinking, which deepens understanding and retention.

Parents and educators often find that the 6th grade curriculum helps pinpoint areas where students may need extra support, whether it's with fractions or understanding ratios.

## Breaking Down the 6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum

### Ratios and Proportional Relationships

One of the most significant shifts in 6th grade math is the focus on ratios and proportional reasoning.

Students explore how two quantities relate to each other and use this understanding to solve problems involving unit rates and percentages.

For example, students might analyze a recipe's ingredient ratios or calculate speed based on distance and time. This domain is foundational for real-world applications like finance, science, and technology.

## **The Number System: Fractions, Decimals, and Negative Numbers**

Building confidence with fractions and decimals is a major goal. Students learn how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions, which can be challenging but essential. Another new concept is negative numbers and their placement on the number line, including understanding absolute value.

Teachers often use visual aids like number lines and area models to help students grasp these abstract ideas.

## **Expressions and Equations**

Introducing algebraic thinking in 6th grade is exciting for many students. They start to write expressions using variables and learn to solve simple one-step equations.

For instance, a problem might ask them to find a number that when multiplied by 4 equals 20. This early exposure helps demystify algebra and builds logical thinking skills.

## **Geometry: Area, Surface Area, Volume, and Coordinate Plane**

In geometry, the curriculum moves beyond simple shapes to measuring areas of polygons, calculating surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures, and plotting points on the coordinate plane.

Activities might include finding the volume of a rectangular prism or locating points in all four quadrants, enhancing spatial reasoning.

## **Statistics and Probability**

Students collect and interpret data, learning to calculate mean, median, mode, and range. They also explore probability concepts through experiments and simulations, which teaches them to predict outcomes and understand chance.

Graphing skills are emphasized, with students creating and reading bar graphs, histograms, and box plots.

# Tips for Supporting Students with the 6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum

Math can be a challenging subject for many students, but with the right approach, 6th graders can thrive. Here are some practical tips for parents and educators:

- **Connect Math to Real Life:** Use everyday examples like cooking measurements or shopping discounts to make concepts relatable.
- **Encourage Visual Learning:** Drawing diagrams, using manipulatives, or online interactive tools can help clarify abstract ideas.
- **Practice Regularly:** Short, consistent practice sessions are more effective than occasional long drills.
- **Ask for Explanations:** Have students explain how they solved a problem to deepen understanding and identify misconceptions.
- **Use Online Resources:** Websites and apps aligned with Common Core can provide extra practice and tutorials tailored to 6th grade standards.

## How the 6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum Prepares Students for the Future

By mastering the standards outlined in the 6th grade Common Core math curriculum, students develop a toolkit of skills that are essential not only for future math courses but also for critical thinking in everyday life. Understanding ratios, working flexibly with numbers, solving equations, and interpreting data are skills that translate well beyond the classroom.

Moreover, this curriculum fosters a growth mindset by encouraging students to approach problems creatively and persistently, which is invaluable in any academic or career path.

The 6th grade year is a pivotal time for young learners to gain confidence in math, setting a positive trajectory for middle school and beyond. Engaging with this curriculum thoughtfully can make a lasting difference in how students perceive and succeed in mathematics.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the main topics covered in the 6th grade Common Core math curriculum?**

The 6th grade Common Core math curriculum primarily covers Ratios and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

### **How does the 6th grade Common Core math curriculum address fractions and decimals?**

In 6th grade, students extend their understanding of fractions by dividing fractions, performing operations with decimals, and applying these concepts to real-world problems, ensuring fluency and conceptual understanding.

### **What is the focus of the Ratios and Proportional Relationships domain in 6th grade?**

This domain focuses on understanding ratio concepts, using ratio reasoning to solve problems, and applying proportional relationships to real-life situations, such as scaling recipes or determining unit rates.

### **How are expressions and equations introduced in 6th grade Common Core math?**

Students learn to write, interpret, and evaluate expressions, as well as solve one-variable equations and inequalities, laying the foundation for algebraic thinking.

### **What geometry skills are taught in 6th grade according to Common Core standards?**

Students learn to find area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional shapes, understand coordinate planes, and explore properties of geometric figures.

### **How does the 6th grade curriculum integrate statistics and probability?**

Students develop skills in collecting, analyzing, and displaying data, as well as understanding concepts of probability and making predictions based on data.

## Are there resources or tools recommended for teaching 6th grade Common Core math?

Yes, many educators use interactive tools like Khan Academy, IXL, and various Common Core-aligned textbooks and workbooks to support teaching and learning.

## How does the 6th grade Common Core math curriculum prepare students for higher-level math?

It builds foundational skills in ratios, arithmetic with rational numbers, algebraic thinking, and geometry, which are essential for success in 7th grade math and beyond.

## Additional Resources

6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum: An In-Depth Review and Analysis

**6th grade common core math curriculum** represents a critical stage in the educational journey, bridging foundational arithmetic concepts with more abstract mathematical reasoning. As schools across the United States implement Common Core State Standards (CCSS), understanding the scope, effectiveness, and key features of the 6th grade curriculum becomes crucial for educators, parents, and policymakers alike. This article offers a comprehensive exploration of the 6th grade common core math curriculum, analyzing its structure, content, and pedagogical implications while integrating relevant keywords such as "6th grade math standards," "math problem solving," and "number system skills" to provide an SEO-friendly yet professional overview.

## Understanding the Structure of the 6th Grade Common Core Math Curriculum

The 6th grade common core math curriculum is carefully designed to solidify students' mastery of essential mathematical concepts introduced in earlier grades, while simultaneously preparing them for the more complex topics encountered in middle and high school. The curriculum is organized into several domains, each targeting specific mathematical competencies aligned with the CCSS framework.

### Core Domains in the 6th Grade Curriculum

The curriculum is primarily divided into the following domains:

- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships:** Introducing concepts related to ratios, rates, and proportional reasoning, which serve as foundational tools for understanding percentages, scale drawings, and real-world applications.
- **The Number System:** Expanding on operations with whole numbers to include division of fractions, decimal operations, and understanding negative numbers on a number line.
- **Expressions and Equations:** Developing skills in writing, interpreting, and evaluating algebraic expressions and solving one-variable equations and inequalities.
- **Geometry:** Focusing on understanding area, surface area, and volume of two- and three-dimensional shapes.
- **Statistics and Probability:** Introducing data analysis concepts, including measures of central tendency and variability, and understanding basic probability.

Each domain is structured to build progressively, ensuring that students develop a strong conceptual understanding alongside procedural fluency.

## Key Features and Learning Outcomes

The 6th grade common core math curriculum emphasizes not only the acquisition of mathematical skills but also the development of critical thinking and problem-solving capabilities. The standards encourage students to explain their reasoning, apply math to real-world contexts, and communicate mathematical ideas effectively.

## Focus on Problem Solving and Conceptual Understanding

One of the standout features of the 6th grade curriculum is its insistence on problem-solving as a core component. Students are challenged with tasks that require them to apply ratios, work with fractions, and manipulate algebraic expressions in scenarios that mirror everyday situations. For example, students might be asked to calculate the best buy between two products using unit rates or to interpret data sets to make informed decisions.

This focus aligns with Common Core's broader goal of moving beyond rote memorization to foster deeper comprehension and analytical skills, which are vital for success in higher-level math and STEM fields.

## Integration of Number System Skills

The curriculum's expansion of the number system to include negative numbers and fractions is significant. Prior to 6th grade, students primarily work with whole numbers and decimals. The introduction of negative numbers, the ability to divide fractions, and operations with decimals reflect a shift toward more abstract mathematical thinking.

Understanding these concepts is essential as they form the basis for algebraic reasoning and functions in later grades. The curriculum supports this transition by incorporating visual models, such as number lines, and encouraging multiple solution strategies to foster flexible thinking.

## Comparative Insights: 6th Grade Common Core vs. Traditional Math Curricula

When compared to traditional math curricula, the 6th grade common core math curriculum exhibits several distinctive characteristics:

- **Emphasis on Conceptual Depth:** Unlike curricula that focus heavily on procedural fluency, Common Core standards strive for a balance that prioritizes understanding why mathematical procedures work.
- **Coherence Across Grades:** The standards are designed with vertical alignment in mind, ensuring that concepts introduced in 6th grade connect logically with both prior and subsequent grade levels.
- **Application and Real-World Contexts:** The curriculum frequently integrates real-life problems, which helps students see the relevance of math beyond the classroom.

However, some critics argue that the curriculum's complexity may overwhelm certain students, particularly those who require more foundational support in arithmetic. This has led to ongoing debates about the pacing and accessibility of the 6th grade common core math curriculum in diverse classroom settings.

## Pros and Cons from an Educator's Perspective

- **Pros:**



- Comprehensive coverage of essential math domains.
  - Encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
  - Prepares students effectively for middle and high school math.
  - Supports differentiated instruction through multiple problem-solving approaches.
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- **Cons:**
    - May be challenging for students with weak prior math skills.
    - Requires teachers to have strong content knowledge and instructional strategies.
    - Time constraints can limit depth of exploration in some topics.

## **Instructional Strategies and Resources Supporting the Curriculum**

Successful implementation of the 6th grade common core math curriculum depends heavily on the instructional approaches employed by educators. Research suggests that active learning methods, such as collaborative problem solving, use of manipulatives, and technology integration, can enhance student engagement and understanding.

### **Technology and Digital Tools**

The advent of digital learning platforms has provided valuable supplements to the curriculum. Interactive math games, virtual manipulatives, and adaptive learning programs enable personalized learning experiences that cater to diverse student needs.

Furthermore, resources aligned with the 6th grade common core math standards, such as online practice exercises and diagnostic assessments, assist teachers in monitoring student progress and tailoring instruction effectively.

## Teacher Professional Development

Given the curriculum's emphasis on conceptual understanding and application, ongoing professional development is critical. Workshops focusing on content knowledge, pedagogical techniques, and assessment strategies empower educators to address the challenges posed by the common core framework.

## Impact on Student Achievement and Future Learning

The 6th grade common core math curriculum serves as a pivotal point in a student's academic trajectory. Mastery of these standards is strongly correlated with success in algebra and higher-level mathematics courses. Data from various educational studies indicate that students exposed to a well-implemented common core curriculum exhibit improved mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills compared to peers following non-Common Core pathways.

While variability in implementation quality exists, the curriculum's alignment with college and career readiness benchmarks positions students for long-term academic and professional success.

In conclusion, the 6th grade common core math curriculum reflects a thoughtfully structured, standards-based approach that seeks to balance procedural skills with deep conceptual understanding. Its focus on ratios, number systems, expressions, geometry, and statistics establishes a comprehensive foundation for young learners navigating the increasingly complex world of mathematics. As educators continue to adapt and refine instructional practices, the curriculum holds promise for fostering mathematical proficiency and confidence in a diverse student population.

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**6th grade common core math curriculum: Parent's Guide to the Common Core: 6th Grade** Kaplan Test Prep, 2014-07-01 Helping Your Child Succeed in Sixth Grade: A Parent's Guide to the Common Core Schools across America are rolling out new, more rigorous curricula in order to meet the demands created by a new set of English and Mathematics standards – known nationally as the Common Core State Learning Standards. You can expect to see a number of changes in your child's sixth grade class. In English, students will now read more Informational Texts. This type of passage provides facts and often deals with current events, science, and social studies. In addition, questions posed about these readings will ask students to find evidence and use it to formulate an argument. In order to master new Literacy standards, students will need a larger and stronger vocabulary to allow them to both tackle complex readings and write acceptable arguments. In Mathematics, students will spend more time developing their understanding of specific and important math concepts. Students will be expected to both demonstrate understanding of each topic and apply their mathematical skills to real-world situations. As a parent, it is important not only to understand the new standards, but also to have the tools to help your child do his or her best in school. This book is designed to provide you with the guidance and resources to support classroom learning and help your child succeed. It includes: An annotated review of the standards highlighting what your child should master during third grade 20 Important lessons that you can do – together with your child – to support them as they progress through the school year A Vocabulary section designed to make sure your child masters the most important academic words 200+ practice questions to improve your child's skills Diagnostic quiz and 20+ mini-quizzes to check for understanding

**6th grade common core math curriculum: Alabama 6th Grade Math Test Prep** Teachers' Treasures, Inc, 2014-12-23 Formatted to reinforce classroom curriculum with over 1000 math problems aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

**6th grade common core math curriculum: Eureka Math Grade 6 Study Guide** Great Minds, 2016-04-04 Eureka Math is a comprehensive, content-rich PreK-12 curriculum that follows the focus and coherence of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics (CCSSM) and carefully sequences the mathematical progressions into expertly crafted instructional modules. The companion Study Guides to Eureka Math gather the key components of the curriculum for each grade into a single location, unpacking the standards in detail so that both users and non-users of Eureka Math can benefit equally from the content presented. Each of the Eureka Math Curriculum Study Guides includes narratives that provide educators with an overview of what students should be learning throughout the year, information on alignment to the instructional shifts and the standards, design of curricular components, approaches to differentiated instruction, and descriptions of mathematical models. The Study Guides can serve as either a self-study professional development resource or as the basis for a deep group study of the standards for a particular grade. For teachers who are new to the classroom or the standards, the Study Guides introduce them not only to Eureka Math but also to the content of the grade level in a way they will find manageable and useful. Teachers familiar with the Eureka Math curriculum will also find this resource valuable as it allows for a meaningful study of the grade level content in a way that highlights the coherence between modules and topics. The Study Guides allow teachers to obtain a firm grasp on what it is that students should master during the year. The Eureka Math Curriculum Study Guide, Grade 6 provides an overview of all of the Grade 6 modules, including Ratios and Unit Rates; Arithmetic Operations Including Dividing by a Fraction; Rational Numbers; Expressions and Equations; Area, Surface Area, and Volume Problems; Statistics.

**6th grade common core math curriculum: Common Core Standards and Mathematics Grades 6 -12: Strategies for Student Success** Toby Karten, 2013-01-01 Common Core Standards & Mathematics: Strategies for Student Success (Grades 6-12) is an easy access, 6-page (tri-fold) laminated guide by Toby Karten. This classroom tool is designed to help middle and high school teachers understand the organization and application of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSS.M), which define the grade-specific knowledge and procedural skills students

are expected to achieve in their study of mathematics. Karten, an expert on inclusion, notes that the standards apply to all students—including students with disabilities receiving special education services—and provides ideas for helping diverse students meet grade-level standards. This comprehensive guide defines key terms, such as domains and clusters, and provides multiple quick-reference charts, including ones that depict \* Grades K-5 domains, Grades 6-8 domains, Grades 9-12 Categories \* The Standards for Mathematical Practice (CCSSMP) and grade-specific student scenarios \* The Standards for Mathematical Content (CCSS.Math.Content.HS) The guide also offers ten tips for connecting math standards to students' lives/interests, with detailed examples provided for applying each tip to various content standards. In addition, a valuable list of additional online and print resources for secondary teachers is provided.

**6th grade common core math curriculum:** *Common Core Mathematics in a PLC at Work™, Grades 6–8* Diane J. Briars, David Foster, 2012-10-26 This teacher guide illustrates how to sustain successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards for mathematics, grades 6–8. Discover what students should learn and how they should learn it at each grade level. Comprehensive research-affirmed analysis tools and strategies will help you and your collaborative team develop and assess student demonstrations of deep conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.

**6th grade common core math curriculum:** Kansas 6th Grade Math Test Prep Teachers Treasures, 2014-12-23 Our 1st edition Kansas 6th Grade Math Test Prep for Common Core State Standards is an excellent resource to assess and manage student's understanding of concepts outlined in the Common Core State Standards Initiative. This resource is formatted into three sections: Diagnostic, Practice, and Assessment with multiple choice in each section. The material covered includes understanding ratio concepts and using ratio reasoning to solve problems; applying and extending previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions; computing fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples; applying and extending previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers; applying and extending previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions; reasoning about and solving one-variable equations and inequalities; representing and analyzing quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables; solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and developing an understanding of statistical variability. These standards are covered extensively by the practice problems. This book contains over 1000 practice problems aligned to each Common Core State Standard. In addition the book contains an answer key to practice problems. Paperback: 358 double-sided pages Publisher: Teachers' Treasures, Inc. Language: English

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**6th grade common core math curriculum:** 6th Grade Common Core Math Workbook Reza Nazari, Ava Ross, 2018-07-01 The Only Book Your student will Ever Need to ACE the Common Core Math Test! Effortless Math Common Core Workbook provides students with the confidence and math skills they need to succeed on the Common Core State Standards Math test, providing a solid foundation of basic Math topics with abundant exercises for each topic. It is designed to address the needs of students who must have a working knowledge of basic Math. This comprehensive workbook with over 2,500 sample questions and 2 complete 6th Grade Common Core Math tests is all a student needs to fully prepare for the Math tests. It will help students learn everything they need to ace the math exams. There are more than 2,500 Math problems with answers in this book. Effortless Math unique study program provides a student with an in-depth focus on the math test, helping them master the math skills that students find the most troublesome. This workbook contains most common sample questions that are most likely to appear in the Common Core Math exams. Inside the pages of this comprehensive workbook, students can learn basic math operations in a structured manner with a complete study program to help them understand essential math skills. It also has many exciting features, including: Dynamic design and easy-to-follow activitiesA fun, interactive and concrete learning processTargeted, skill-building practicesFun exercises that build confidenceMath topics are grouped by category, so students can focus on the topics they struggle onAll solutions for the exercises are included, so you will always find the answers2 Complete Common Core Math Practice Tests Effortless Common Core Math Workbook is an incredibly useful tool for those who want to review all topics being covered on the Common Core Math tests. It efficiently and effectively reinforces learning outcomes through engaging questions and repeated practice, helping students to quickly master basic Math skills. Published by: Effortless Math Education [www.EffortlessMath.com](http://www.EffortlessMath.com)

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**6th grade common core math curriculum:** *The Common Core Mathematics Companion: The Standards Decoded, Grades 6-8* Ruth Harbin Miles, Lois A. Williams, 2016-02-18 The Common Core Mathematics Companion 6-8 offers a practical guide for implementing the CCSS Math Standards. Teachers will appreciate the misconception alerts and ideas for differentiation. — Jay McTighe, Author and Consultant When it comes to math, standards-aligned is achievement-aligned... In the short time since The Common Core Mathematics Companions, Grades K-2 and 3-5 burst on the scene, they have been lauded as the best resources for making critical math ideas easy to teach. With this brand-new 6-8 volume, middle school math success is at your fingertips. Page by page, the authors lay out the pieces to a cutting-edge curriculum, helping you to: Get the inside scoop on which standards connect, what key vocabulary means, and time-saving tables showing where to focus instruction for each grade Write curriculum for: ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics & probability Use the What to Teach pages to deliver powerful standards-based lessons Learn effective techniques to create an environment where all students can experience math break-throughs Incorporate the Standards for Mathematical Practice to improve students' ability to problem solve, construct viable arguments, use tools strategically, attend to precision, and more The Common Core Mathematics Companion, Grades 6-8 has what every middle school needs to provide students with the foundation for the concepts and skills they will be expected to know in grade 9-12. Ruth Harbin Miles is a mathematics coach, with special expertise in developing teachers' content knowledge and strategies for engaging students to achieve high mathematics standards. A serving member on the Board of Directors for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics, Ruth is a co-author with Linda Gojak of The Common Core Mathematics Companions, K-2 and 3-5 (Corwin). Lois Williams, Ed.D., who taught mathematics in grades K-8 for 20 years, is currently an adjunct professor at Mary Baldwin College and an International Fellow with the Charles A. Dana Center, training teachers in the College and Career Readiness Standards She has been honored with a Fulbright Teacher Exchange and the Virginia Middle School Mathematics Teacher of the Year award.

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**6th grade common core math curriculum:** *Common Core State Standards: Math 6th Grade (Speedy Study Guides)* Speedy Publishing, 2015-04-27 6th grade math is oftentimes seen as an

impossible task, with its ratios, fractions, equations and statistical thinking. The challenge, therefore, for the teacher is to completely reverse such mindset by making the task actually entertaining. This guide holds valuable information on activities and concepts that make learning 6th grade math a walk in the park. Be sure to secure your copy today.

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**6th grade common core math curriculum: Common Core Curriculum: English, Grades 6-8** Great Minds, 2014-05-06 Common Core's English resources empower educators to meet the expectations of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts (ELA) and build essential content knowledge for students in grades 6-8. Each grade in The Wheatley Portfolio features a comprehensive, coherent sequence of thematic units that engage students in deep study of worthwhile texts and topics. Features of this book include: Six thematic units for each grade, each centered on a curated collection of literary and informational texts Focus standards for each unit that complement the topic and promote student mastery of essential literacy skills Suggested texts and activities to incorporate science, art, and history into English instruction This revised second edition includes a sample text study that guides students through a close read of an exemplary text, updated web resources, and refreshed suggested works. Educators who create their curriculum based on Common Core's Wheatley Portfolioguarantee that students are exposed to content-rich instruction and have ample opportunity to master the reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language skills articulated in the CCSS for ELA.

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