

Chapter 3 Questions for Reflection

Reflecting on your reading is an opportunity to evaluate and deepen your understanding, gain additional insight, and apply what you have read to your own specific context (Costa & Kallick, 2008). Whether you are an educator or parent, we encourage you to use these questions for personal reflection or to prompt discussion with colleagues and friends if you are reading the book together with the goal of understanding and improving mathematics learning in your local schools.

Questions for Educators

1. What arguments have you heard people use to criticize the CCSS for mathematics? How have you responded to that criticism? Do you still have unanswered questions from this chapter? What are they?
2. How are criticisms of the CCSS for mathematics similar or dissimilar from previous mathematics education eras, for example, the new math era or the back-to-basics movement?
3. Do you agree with any of the concerns raised about the CCSS for mathematics? Why? How could those concerns be addressed in your current work setting?

Questions for Parents

1. Are you surprised that the Common Core is not a federal initiative? Have you ever confused concerns about testing of the state standards with the actual CCSS themselves?
2. Do you think it makes sense that students' mathematics education in different states is based on different mathematics standards? Or, do you think it is positive that the differences between state standards are narrowing?
3. Do you think it makes sense that states have different expectations and definitions of proficiency for students? Why or why not?