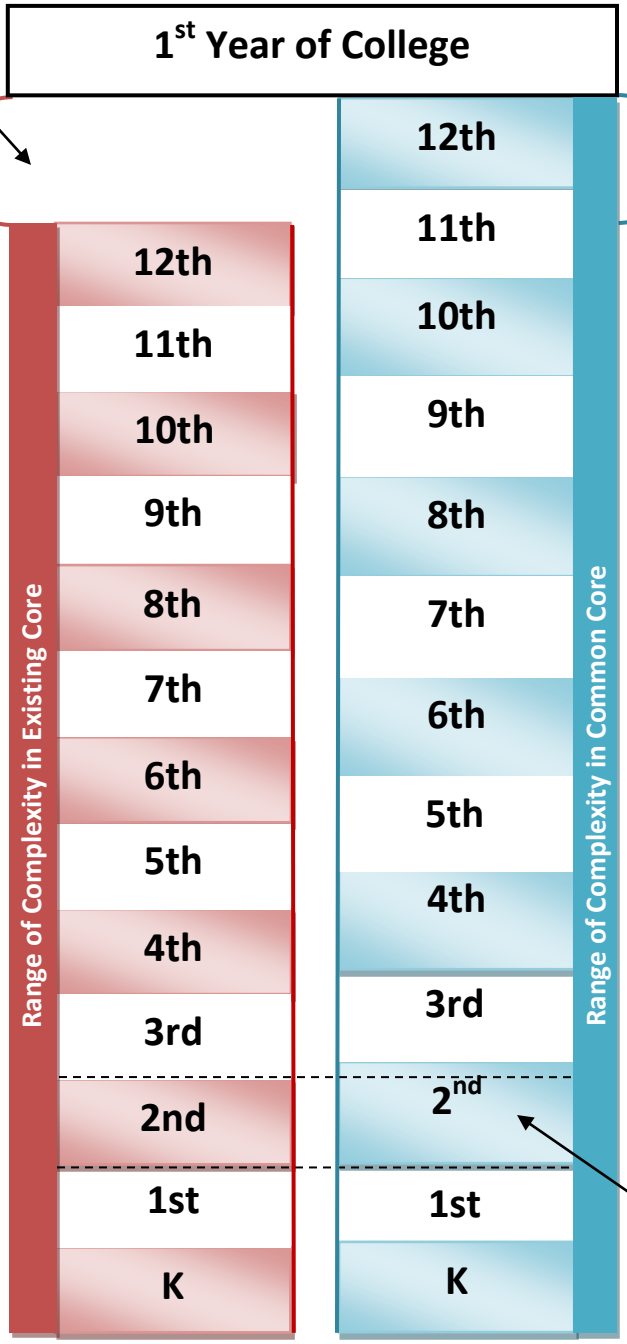
A Visual Representation of the Range and Complexity of Text in the Existing Core Compared to the Common Core*

"Gary L. Williamson (2006) found a 350L (Lexile) gap between the difficulty of end-of-high school and college texts—a gap equivalent to 1.5 standard deviations and more than the Lexile difference between grade 4 and grade 8 texts" (Common Core, Appendix A, p.3).

Current gap in range and complexity between high school and college.



Levels of range and complexity not expected of high school students before.

Lexile Bands (Existing Core)

11th – CCR
1070 – 1220

9th – 10th
960 – 1115

6th – 8th
860 – 1010

4th – 5th
645 – 845

2nd – 3rd
450 – 725

Lexile "Stretch" Bands (Common Core)

11th – CCR
1215 – 1355

9th – 10th
1080 – 1305

6th – 8th
955 – 1155

4th – 5th
770 – 980

2nd – 3rd
450 – 790

Note that the increase in complexity is intended to begin in 2nd Grade.

*The scale used here is simply an example.