

# Common Core State Standards: Helping your child achieve academic success

## What are the Common Core State Standards?

A set of research-based goals that provide a clear understanding of the knowledge and skills that students need for college and the work force. The standards provide consistent goals in the areas of English-language arts and mathematics. The standards reflect high expectations and high-quality education for all students. The standards benefit students, teacher and parents through clear, realistic goals that drive instruction and identify what is needed for proficiency.

## What are the advantages of the standards?

The main advantage is that students all across the country have consistent knowledge, tools and skills needed to succeed. The standards also provide additional advantages such as:

- A shared framework with high-quality proven benchmarks.
- A state-led effort including teachers, school administrators, parents and nationwide experts in education.
- There are standards also being developed in other academic areas such as the arts, science and world languages.
- Consistent standards allow for cooperation and opportunity for educators to work together to develop common assessments and teaching strategies.

**The standards are not a national curriculum. Individual states voluntarily decided to adopt the standards and have the option to add to the standards. Local school districts and teachers will still decide what they teach and how they teach it.**

Standards have currently been created in English-Language Arts and Math. See below for specific information about these standards:

English Language Arts (ELA)	Mathematics
Students will read more complex texts across a wider range of subject areas in addition to developing research and critical thinking skills.	Students will focus on greater depth and mastery in order to better analyze problems and develop abstract reasoning skills and critique the reasoning of others.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Prepare students to read, research and write literacy, history and science texts</b></li><li>• <b>Focus on content and skills</b></li><li>• <b>Students will be able to understand and analyze texts and share that knowledge</b></li><li>• <b>The standards cover the following:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Reading</b> - read literature and texts in a range of subjects and build on comprehension</li><li>○ <b>Writing</b> – research topics and develop reasoning skills to write logical arguments supporting their details</li><li>○ <b>Speaking and listening</b> – students will assess and present information across all content areas</li><li>○ <b>Language</b> – expand vocabulary through conversation, instruction and reading</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>K- 5 standards provide a solid foundation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Learning basic concepts such as whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals.</li></ul> <p><b>Middle School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Build the skills from basic skills to the foundations for algebra, geometry, probability and statistics</li></ul> <p><b>High School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Apply math skills to real world issues and challenges such as will be used in the workplace</li><li>○ Focus on “mathematical modeling” which helps students use math skills to better analyze and understand everyday life and work situations</li></ul>
Media and technology are integrated to help develop ELA skills.	Mathematics stresses an understanding of concepts and developing skills as students move from grade to grade.

