

Tips for Educators

- ▶ Dedicate extra time to explain the new Common Core instructional shifts to parents and what the shifts mean in the classroom.
- ▶ Align student progress reports to Common Core standards.
- ▶ Make sure weekly folders and home communications include Common Core activities and provide incentives for completing them.
- ▶ Use every school event as an opportunity to talk to parents about the standards and demonstrate the shifts.
- ▶ Host events with other school staff for parents to participate in Common Core aligned hands-on activities.
- ▶ Communicate electronically with parents and peers, explaining how curriculum will be aligned with the new standards.
- ▶ Invite parents to ask questions about Common Core.
- ▶ Teachers and education professionals should work together to help families feel welcome in schools.

For more information about Common Core State Standards, contact:

- National PTA: www.pta.org
- National Education Association (NEA) www.nea.org

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**Collaborative strategies for
helping students transition to
Common Core State Standards**

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Ask any parent or educator what they want most for their student(s), and this is what they'll say:

"I want them to be successful."



More than ever before, an enhanced set of expectations is helping to increase the chances for success in school now and beyond. Parents and educators need to work in partnership to make success for every student a reality.

Your state, along with 45 other states, adopted these expectations known as Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Developed by a coalition of educators, parents, education experts, and business leaders, CCSS provides a path for what students must learn in math and English language arts at each grade level in order to be prepared for college, training and a career. By building understanding and knowledge from grade to grade students will truly understand and master concepts readying them to move forward.

A Chance for All Children to Excel

Common Core State Standards place emphasis on critical thinking and analysis. The standards are consistent from state-to-state ensuring that all students have an equal chance to excel – that they will never fall behind and that a move from one state to another will not threaten the success of any student.

Because the goals and expectations for students are higher under these standards, new standardized assessments will be implemented. Initial scores may be lower as a new benchmark for achievement is set. Be assured that after educators and students adjust to the new teaching and learning strategies, scores will reflect the alignment and, subsequently, increase.

You Can Help ... Become a Team

Here is how educators and families can work together to help students succeed.

Tips for Families

- ▶ Pay close attention to weekly folders and communication from school.
- ▶ Read frequently with your child and encourage non-fiction, as well as fictional reading.
- ▶ Play math games with your child to support development of math fluency.
- ▶ Review homework for accuracy and completion.
- ▶ Contact the school if you need additional resources for your child or if you think your child needs additional help.

- ▶ Watch documentary programs with your child, using the closed-captioning features so your child is able to view the text.
- ▶ Observe your child and stay engaged because there will be changes in how your child learns and new materials may be unfamiliar.
- ▶ Encourage and challenge your child to learn.
- ▶ Visit your state education department's website to see the standards and how they are being implemented.
- ▶ Ask your child questions about what they are learning.

