

Realizing Illinois

Our Students. . .Prepared for success after high school
Our Promise. . .Leadership, Advocacy, & Support
Our Future...Strong communities, competitive workforce



Common Core State Standards

- ◆ Fewer, clearer, higher
- ◆ Internationally benchmarked
- ◆ 21st Century Skills
- ◆ Evidence-based

The Illinois State Board of Education has academic standards for K-12 education known as the Common Core State Standards. The goal is to better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the workforce in a competitive global economy.



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Many Illinois students are underprepared to lead rewarding and successful careers. Despite overwhelming evidence linking higher levels of education with greater economic opportunity and career advancement, too many students fail to complete postsecondary education and obtain meaningful jobs.

Businesses and organizations suffer as they fail to fill positions with educated and skilled employees. Without a vibrant pool of applicants from which to hire, the state’s economy cannot flourish. An educated workforce is critical to the success of Illinois’ economy and what happens in Illinois’ classrooms today contributes to the workforce of tomorrow.

Why new learning standards?

- Our expectations for what students must know and be able to demonstrate were different in 1997 when Illinois adopted the current standards.
- The new standards aim to provide clear, consistent academic benchmarks with “fewer, clearer and higher” academic standards for essential learning and skills.
- The Common Core State Standards provide benchmarks for academic progress (skills and knowledge) that students should have at the conclusion of each grade level. This will allow teachers to establish the best approach to help their students meet those standards.
- Students and parents will clearly understand the knowledge students are expected to attain **each year**.



Educators leading the charge



Teachers were a critical voice in the development of the standards. The National Education Association (NEA), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), among other organizations have been instrumental in bringing together teachers to provide specific, constructive feedback on the standards.

Teachers are key to classroom success. Teachers were a critical part of the development of these standards and will

be essential for helping students achieve them. It is important to note the standards do not dictate how a teacher should teach to meet the goals. **The standards are a set of clear benchmarks that allow teachers and local school officials to develop their own local education plans to help students achieve those goals.** Administrators and teachers will chart a path to help students achieve the standards.

How will the Common Core state standards be implemented?



The process to fully implement new standards touches numerous systems including curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development and various support components such as Response to Intervention. Local districts continue to have

the same flexibility with their approach to implementing common core standards as they did with the 1997 learning standards. It will require time for teachers to focus on their grade level curriculum and determine what instructional shifts should be reflected. It will require collaboration across grade levels for planning and revisions of curriculum. Administrators statewide are guiding and leading this transition to higher standards for our students.



A New Vision of Assessment



Standards and assessments are a core part of education. The Common Core State Standards are designed to be relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in both college and work. The assessment of student's knowledge and skills should reflect that of their classroom experiences. Results from assessments must provide information to students, teachers and parents. To make sure students are meeting the expectations of the new standards, an assessment system must align with the standards being taught in the classroom. The new assessments will inform **students** whether or not they are on track, **teachers** will have timely data to guide instruction and support students in their classroom and **parents** will have clear progress reports.

***Texts Worth Reading
Problems Worth Solving
Tests Worth Taking***

What we know:

- Expectations should be higher for our educational system to prepare students for their world of work
- Standards and Assessments must align
- Data is needed to inform teaching and learning
- Technology is a key component in the future of effective education
- Instruction must include 21st century skills
- Educators, students, parents, community members, businesses are essential partners in education



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COMMON CORE VISIT

www.isbe.net/common_core