

THE MONITOR

Dear PTA Advocate,

On June 24, the Illinois State Board of Education joined 47 other states in adopting the Common Core Standards.

Below you will find an outline of these standards published by the State Board of Education to inform the families of Illinois' students about the new Common Core Standards. Currently, these standards are for Math, Language Arts and Reading and will be implemented over the next several years, either enhancing or replacing the current Illinois Learning Standards as necessary.

We urge you to learn more about the Common Core Standards by visiting the website of the Illinois State Board of Education at www.isbe.net or view the complete Common Core Standards document at www.corestandards.org. This is also an opportunity for your PTA to work with your school district to learn more about how the Common Core Standards will be implemented locally.

Common Core State Standards



What are educational standards?

The common core state standards are a list of skills that help teachers make sure their students have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in college and the workforce by providing clear goals for student learning.

Overview

- The Illinois State Board of Education has adopted new academic standards for K-12 education known as the Common Core State Standards. The state's previous standards were adopted in 1997.
- The goal of these standards is to better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the workforce in a competitive global economy.

Development of standards

- The new standards are clear about what each student should know at each grade level. They are the best and highest of state standards.
- The first standards were developed for the K-12 areas of mathematics and English. Math and English were developed first because they teach skills which students build upon for other subjects.

Were teachers involved in the creation of the standards?

Yes. Teachers have been 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. Standards do not tell teachers how to teach, but they do help teachers figure out the knowledge and skills their students should have in order to build the best lessons and environments for their classrooms.

How do educational standards help parents?

- Standards help parents know exactly what is expected of their children at each step in their education so that they are prepared for college or the workforce.
- The standards help parents know what teachers will expect from their children to learn at each grade level.
- The standards give parents specific information about their child's learning to talk to their teacher about during the school year.
- They assure parents that their children have access to the same high-quality education other students receive in Illinois or other parts of the country.

We will be providing updates on the Common Core Standards as information becomes available.

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