

Why do we need new learning standards?

It's time to get real about what our kids must learn if they are to succeed in today's world. Right now, *only 1 in 4 Illinois* high school students graduate ready for real life, be it college or career. In part, that's because Illinois hasn't updated the learning standards in 16 years. That's why 45 states- including Illinois- have adopted the Common Core State Standards.

What are the new Common Core Standards?

- Grade-specific learning framework in math and English Language Arts- teachers still decide what to teach in their classrooms
- Higher, clearer, deeper and based on what students must learn to succeed in college and modern careers
- Creating the same expectations for *all* students no matter where they live
- Emphasizing skills students will need for the modern workplace: collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity
- Built upon strengths and lessons from the highest-performing states and countries

When will the Common Core Standards be introduced?



Illinois adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 and they are being fully implemented in the 2013-2014 school year. New assessments aligned to the Common Core and developed by a consortium of states will come out school year 2014-15.

How is the Common Core different?

Aside from being based on what students need to learn and be able to do to succeed in college and modern careers, the Common Core is different in many ways. Some of these are:

English Language Arts standards:

- Build knowledge by reading more nonfiction. Most of the reading we do in college and at work is nonfiction so learning how to understand and synthesize nonfiction is a critical skill for real world success.
- Teach students to read like a detective and write like a reporter, reading, writing and speaking using evidence found in literary and informational texts.
- Encourage practice with complex texts and the sort of language students will eventually use in college and careers.



Math standards:



- Focus on deeper learning. Former math standards were mile wide and an inch deep forcing teachers and students to skim material without allowing enough time to promote deep understanding of fewer topics.
- Think and link across grades. The Common Core builds upon what has been learned in previous grades
- Promote conceptual understanding, procedural fluency and real-world applications so students understand why they are studying it.

The ***Real Learning for Real Life*** campaign is a project of the Core Coalition, a diverse group of 40 organizations committed to providing the children of Illinois with the best education possible. The Core Coalition is currently under formation; please contact us if you are interested in joining.

Core Coalition Members

- Advance Illinois
- Arts Alliance Illinois
- Bensenville School District 2
- Central Pointe Community Services, Bloomington
- Champaign Unit 4 School District
- Chicago Public Library
- Chicago Public Schools
- Chicago Teachers Union Quest Center
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Civic Committee, Chicago
- CME Group Foundation
- Common Place Family Learning Center, Peoria
- Consortium for Educational Change
- Decatur Area Education Coalition
- Hands that Help
- Illinois Association- Regional Superintendents of Schools
- Illinois Business Roundtable
- Illinois Education Association
- Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Illinois Network of Charter Schools
- Illinois P-20 Council
- Illinois PTA
- Illinois School Management Alliance
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Latino Policy Forum
- Lt. Governor State of Illinois, Sheila Simon
- Mikva Challenge, Chicago
- Perspectives Charter Schools, Chicago
- Regional Office of Education #12, Clay, Crawford, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland Counties
- Regional Office of Education #26, Hancock and McDonough Counties
- Regional Office of Education #27, Henderson, Mercer and Warren Counties
- Regional Office of Education #47, Lee and Ogle Counties
- Stand for Children Illinois
- Statewide Action and Grassroots Education (SAGE) Campaign
- Students for Education Reform
- Target Area Development Corporation, Illinois
- Teach Plus, Chicago
- The Ounce of Prevention Fund
- UMMA Center, Lake County
- United Way of Illinois
- Voices for Illinois Children

The Campaign is supported by:

The Joyce Foundation

CME GROUP
FOUNDATION

BOEING

State Farm™

WWW.COMMONCOREIL.ORG