



Every child is a work of art.
Create a masterpiece.

Common Core *Focus*

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF RIGOROUS EXPECTATIONS
IN THE COMMON CORE.

What does success look like for our students? Common Core Standards serve as a guidepost for educators – so that we can ensure that every student across New York is on track for college and career success.

The New York State Education Department has adopted Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for P-K through grade 12. These standards will be the basis of curriculum and instruction. They will also be the basis of the state assessments beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. The Common Core Standards have been adopted by most states across the nation.

Where did they come from?

The Common Core State Standards initiative was led by the National Governors Association for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers – this is a national body of all Commissioners of Education.

What are the Common Core Learning Standards?

The Common Core Learning Standards are broad statements of outcomes that provide a consistent and clear understanding of what students are expected to learn so that teachers and parents can help them.

What does this mean for my child?

Public school districts are changing what they teach and how they teach to align with these standards (so there is a common understanding of what students are expected to learn). Ultimately, the goal is to prepare your child to enter the college of their choice or to enter the workforce and be productive citizens in our democratic society.

What can I do to help my child?

Help your child with his/her homework. By helping your child with homework, you get an idea of the topics that your child is studying in class.



Parent Friendly Resources

- Parent Roadmaps- www.cgcs.org
- Common Core State Standards for Families- www.schools.nyc.gov
- EngageNY.org
- National PTA website– www.pta.org

Important Dates

Parent Advisory Council
⇒ **April 8 @6:00 p.m.**

Grades 3-8 Testing
⇒ **NYS Math Testing**
April 16-18
⇒ **NYS ELA Testing**
April 24-26

Local Regents
⇒ **June 11-21**

COMMON CORE NEWS



What can I do to help my child with English Language Arts?

“College and career readiness isn’t for some, it is for all. Our obligation is to ensure that that is a gift that we give through our education system to all of our students.”

Commissioner John King

SOMETIMES I SUM UP THE STANDARDS BY SAYING THEY REQUIRE YOU TO READ LIKE A DETECTIVE AND WRITE LIKE AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER.

DAVID COLEMAN

There are six shifts in English Language Arts and Literacy that can help your child succeed at reading and writing.

Shift 1: Balance Informational and Literary Text Children should read stories and informational text in grades P-K through 5. The shift is to have readers devote the same amount of time to story reading and informational text reading. Some examples of informational texts are newspapers, magazines, technical manuals, science, social studies, and other content texts books. **Read different types**

of books and texts (e.g. magazines, technical manuals) to and with your child. Read newspapers to and with your child.

Shift 2: Building Knowledge in the Disciplines Children should have a deep knowledge of academic content areas: Science, Social Studies, Arts, etc. and learn from a variety of texts. **Read science and social studies books with your child. Look for books that interest your child.**

Shift 3: Text Complexity Children should read text that becomes more complex as they advance through the grades. **Read books that become harder for your children as they progress through the P-K -12 grades.**

Shift 4: Text Based Answers Children should be able to answer questions based on the texts they read. **Ask your child questions about the text. Ask your child to write about a book he or she has read. Ask your child**

to take a position from character’s perspective.

Shift 5 Writing from Sources Children should learn to write from sources they read. Children should write argumentative essays in addition to narratives. **Have your child write essays based on texts they read.**

Shift 6: Academic Vocabulary Children should learn academic vocabulary in the content areas and apply vocabulary words correctly. Practice increases a child’s comfort with academic words - school language. **Provide opportunities for your child to explain new words and use them in a sentence. Look for ways to practice school vocabulary with your child at home.** Examples of school language include such words as trace, analyze, infer, summarize, contrast, and predict. Ask your child’s teacher what academic words will be covered in your child’s grade level.

What can I do to help my child with mathematics?

What’s the shift?	What will students have to do?	What can parents do to help?
Build skills across grade levels	Keep building on learning year after year.	Be aware of what your child struggled with last year and how that will effect ongoing learning.
		Advocate for your child.
		Ensure that support is given for “gap” skills, such as negative numbers, fractions, etc.
Learn more about less	Spend more time on fewer concepts.	Know what the priority work is for your child at their grade level.
Use math facts easily	Go more in-depth on each concept.	Spend time with your child on priority work.
		Ask your child’s teacher for reports on your child’s progress on priority work.
Think fast AND solve problems	Spend time practicing by doing lots of problems on the same idea.	Push children to know, understand and memorize basic math facts.
		Know all of the fluencies your child should have.
		Prioritize learning the fluencies your child finds most difficult.
Really know it, really do it	Make the math work, and understand why it does.	Ask questions and review homework to see whether your child understands <i>why</i> as well as <i>what</i> the answer is.
	Talk about why the math works.	Advocate for the time your child needs to learn key math skills.
	Prove that they know why and how the math works.	Provide time for your child to work on math skills at home.
Use math in the real world	Apply math in real world situations.	Ask your child to do the math that comes up in daily life.
	Know which math skills to use for which situation.	