

## **Frequently Asked Questions for Common Core State Standards**

### **What are the Common Core State Standards?**

The Common Core Standards communicate what is expected of students at each grade level in the areas of reading writing, speaking, listening and mathematics. They set the guidelines for what each student should learn. These standards are designed to help assure that all students graduating from high school are prepared for college and or the work force. They include rigorous, content and higher order thinking skills. In addition, the standards match up with international standards so that our students are competitive in the global world.

### **What are the benefits for my child in writing?**

Students will become college and career-ready writers by considering the task, purpose and audience while carefully choosing words, information and formats. They will progress toward having the ability to produce high-quality first draft text under a tight deadline, as well as the ability to revisit and refine writing over multiple drafts. They will write arguments to support claims, informative pieces to relate to complex idea, and narratives to develop real or imaginary events.

### **What are the benefits for my child in reading?**

As teachers implement the Common Core, students will be asked to read more difficult text sooner, and discuss what they read at a higher level. For example, students in the 5th grade will be asked to "Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text."

### **What are the benefits for my child in speaking and listening?**

The speaking and listening standards require students to develop real life communication skills including interpersonal skills, not just skills for formal presentations. For example, 6th grade students will be asked to do the following: "Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly."

### **What are the benefits for my child in mathematics?**

The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe the mathematical behaviors all students will develop in the Common Core Standards. These practices rest on important "processes and proficiencies" including problem solving, reasoning and proof, communication, representation, and making connections. These practices will help students understand the why of mathematics and apply math skills with confidence. They will learn to apply mathematics to problems in everyday life. Asking a student to understand something means assessing their ability to explain why a particular mathematic statement is true. This is a lot more challenging than a rote process of pugging numbers into formulas.

### **What steps has our district taken to implement the Common Core State Standards?**

- Articulation and communication with staff of the expectations of CCSS
- Communication with parents about the shift to CCSS
- Professional development for all staff in the district
- Principals will ensure access to effective professional development for building staff
- Create and foster a culture of collaboration with staff
- Providing teachers with the necessary guidance of understanding what the CCSS requires students to know and be able to do

- Designing and implementing instruction that supports every student in meeting the CCSS

**Where can I learn more about the Common Core?**

You may go directly to the Common Core website: [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)