

What Can You Do?

- ▶ Talk it up! Explain to other families and teachers why successful implementation of these standards is crucial to you and your community.
- ▶ Serve on the school board and/or attend school board meetings where you can be vocal and persuasive. Also, attend school district meetings when academic issues are discussed.
- ▶ Write school leaders and state education officials, expressing your support of the new standards and common sense implementation plans.
- ▶ Talk to community-group and faith-based leaders about the importance of staying the course in the face of opposition to the Common Core and fighting for what's right for children.
- ▶ Write your state legislators about the importance of staying the course instead of turning back when positive results aren't immediate.
- ▶ Write a letter to your local newspaper editor, expressing your support for the new standards and resources for the implementation.
- ▶ Write or visit members of Congress in your community so that they appreciate your level of commitment to higher standards.
- ▶ Talk to local business leaders who understand that educated talent is important to the economy.
- ▶ If you live in a community where there are military families, talk to the base leaders who also know that educated talent is important to the economy, the community and the country.

For more information about Common Core State Standards, contact:

- National PTA: www.pta.org
- National Education Association (NEA) www.nea.org

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FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS...

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Collaborative strategies for
helping students transition to
Common Core State Standards

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HIGHER EXPECTATIONS FOR GREATER LEARNING



In nearly every school district across the country, students, teachers, other school staff and families are learning about new K-12 education standards in mathematics and English language arts known as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Recognizing that today's elementary, middle, and high school students are tomorrow's college applicants, working professionals, and well-informed citizens, CCSS is a critical step to ensuring that all students – regardless of their zip code or background – are prepared to succeed.

Developed by a coalition of teachers, parents, education experts, and business leaders, CCSS provides a path for what students must learn in math and English language arts at each grade in order to be prepared for college, training and a career. By building understanding and knowledge from grade to grade students will truly understand and master concepts so that they are ready to move forward.

Common Core State Standards emphasize critical thinking and analysis, as well as focusing on literacy across a variety of subjects. Consistent standards from state-to-state ensure that all students have a chance to excel – no matter where they

attend school or how many times they need to move with their families.

Because the goals and expectations for students are higher under these standards, new assessments will be developed. Initial scores may be lower on standardized assessments as a new benchmark for achievement is set. Be assured that after teachers and students adjust to the new teaching and learning strategies, scores will reflect the alignment and, subsequently, increase.

Support the Standards

There are many players that contribute to the success of Common Core and ultimately student achievement. A critical link is the mutual support of families and educators for students' successful transition to new educational expectations.

Teachers will develop new curriculum, resources and activities during the transition. They, and other school staff, will need continued professional development, and cooperation from families at home.

Families will need to pay close attention to what is going on with homework as well as in the classroom. They will have to determine

whether or not their child needs additional resources and assistance at school.

Frequent and clear communication between school and home is crucial!

Become an Advocate. It's Up to You!

Anything worth having is worth protecting. That is true of Common Core too, which will ensure your students get an education that allows them to compete in a global environment and leads to success in college and beyond. You must make it clear that a better education for your children is a priority for you and your community.

