COMMON CORE
REAL LEARNING FOR REAL LIFE

DEAR PARENT,

We all want our children to be prepared for success in the real world. 94% of parents say they want their kids to go to college, yet, today only 29% of Illinois high school students will earn a 2- or 4-year degree. At the same time, jobs in Illinois are going unfilled because employers can't find workers with the skills they need in a modern economy.

We owe it to our children to ensure that they graduate with the skills they'll need to be successful. That's why 45 states, including Illinois, are raising the bar for kids by adopting the Common Core State Standards.

These new learning standards are designed to create clear, consistent expectations for what all students should learn at each grade level to prepare them for college and career. That's why the Common Core is real learning for real life!

THE NEW COMMON CORE STANDARDS ARE:

- Math and English Language Arts learning standards for kindergarten to 12th grade, with more subjects in development
- Fewer, clearer, deeper and based on what students must learn at each grade level to succeed in college and modern careers
- Creating the same expectations for all students so families can understand exactly what every student should be learning 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

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REALITY CHECK

We must hold high expectations for each of our students to prepare them for success in the real world. Today, many students meeting standards on the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT) given in grades 3 through 8 are not actually on track to be ready for college and career.

CHANGES TO TESTS ARE COMING...

Illinois is raising expectations for student performance on the ISAT. This means students will now have to score higher to meet or exceed standards. So next fall when you receive your child's ISAT results you may see a change in their classification. In 2014, the state will transition to the new PARCC exam in math and English Language Arts. PARCC will provide a more detailed picture of student knowledge and skills.

WHAT DO THESE CHANGES MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD?

The changes to the ISAT give parents and teachers a more accurate understanding of how students are performing earlier, while there is time to help those who need it get on track for college and career.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1 LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CORE

Connect with CommonCoreIL.org for the latest information and resources.

2 TALK TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS

Find tips for talking to teachers and PTA Parent Guides at www.CommonCoreIL.org

3 STAY IN TOUCH

Sign up for the Core Connection newsletter at CommonCoreIL.org