

# Realizing Illinois

*Our Students. . .Prepared for success after high school*

*Our Promise. . .Leadership, Advocacy, & Support*

*Our Future...Strong communities, competitive workforce*

Parent  
Information



The Illinois State Board of Education has adopted **new Math and English Language Arts standards** for K-12 education known as the *New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core*.

**What are educational standards?**

Standards are a list of expectations that help teachers make sure their students have the skills and knowledge they need at each grade level.

**What is the Common Core?**

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort to provide a single set of clear standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

**Will every grade have new standards?**

Yes, there will be new ELA/Math Standards in grades K-12.

**Why English Language Arts and Math?**

English Language Arts and Math were developed first because they teach skills which students build upon for other subjects. The work on Science and Social Studies standards has been started.





The Illinois PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and the Illinois State Board of Education have co-branded the **Parents' Guide to Success** which is a series of brochures for each grade level designed especially for parents. They are available to download in English and Spanish. at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

### Will my child's teacher be doing anything different?

Teachers will be preparing their lessons with the new standards in mind and working with the students to help them achieve expectations.

### Will expectations of my child change?

Students will be learning based on *new standards*, however, changes will be made gradually. Teachers will be working to make sure students are prepared for the next grade level, including new standards when appropriate.

### How will I know when my school is teaching the new Standards?

Each school may have a different timeline for their school to use the new standards. Ask your child's teacher or principal about the new standards. New assessments based on the new standards will replace ISAT and PSAE beginning in 2014.

### How can I help my child?

Continue to talk to your child about what they are learning. Talk to the teachers regularly about your child and how he or she is doing. Ask your child's teacher for suggestions on how to support school work at home.

## What do I need to know?

- Remember: not all districts will begin using the new standards at the same time. New tests will be in place in 2014 so there is time to plan for changes.
- More information on the new standards can be found at the Illinois State Board of Education website: [http://isbe.net/common\\_core/default.htm](http://isbe.net/common_core/default.htm)



## Strengths of the New Common Core

- Parents will know what is expected of their children at each grade level.
- Standards give parents specific information when talking with teachers during the school year.
- Standards assure parents their children have access to the same high-quality education as other students in Illinois and in other parts of the country.
- Parents will know that their child is learning skills and knowledge to be successful in the 21st century.