



The Common Core & How You Can Help

WWW.COMMONCOREIL.ORG

What is the Common Core?

The Common Core State Standards are:

- A learning framework for English Language Arts and math
- Aligned with college and career expectations
- Higher, clearer, deeper and consistent across states
- Built upon strengths and lessons of the strongest state and international standards
- Evidence-based
- Voluntarily adopted by 45 states
- Developed by educators across the country at the request of the nation's governors and chief education officers

- Great City Schools video: 3:00 minutes

Why the Common Core?

- **Prepare**— In Illinois, only 1 in 3 students graduate high school prepared for college or career
- **Compete** - The standards are international, so students are prepared to be competitive on a global scale
- **Equality** – CCSS are consistent for all students nationwide and addressing student mobility and differences between states
- **Clarity** – CCSS are focused, coherent and clear so students can understand what is expected
- **Collaborate** – Expertise, best practices, assessments, and lesson plans can be shared

Going Deeper...

English Language Arts/Literacy:

- Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction
- Read like a detective, write like a reporter!
- Regular practice with complex text and its academic language
- Reading and writing in all subjects

Math:

- Deeper focus on fewer concepts
- Coherence: Think across grades, and link to major topics within grades
- Rigor: In major topics pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity

Skills:

- Four C's: collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity

Sample change in 4th Grade English Standards

Illinois
Learning
Standards (ILS)
Gr 4-1B2a

Identify explicit main ideas.

CCSS
RI.4.1.2

Determine the main idea of
a text and explain how it is
supported by key details;
summarize the text.

Sample changes in Grade 5 Math Standards

IL BM
6B2

Solve one- and two-step problems involving whole numbers, fractions and decimals using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

CCSS

Explain why multiplying a given number by a fraction greater than 1 results in a product greater than the given number (recognizing multiplication by whole numbers greater than 1 as a familiar case); explaining why multiplying a given number by a fraction less than 1 results in a product smaller than the given number; and relating the principle of fraction equivalence $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{n \times a}{n \times b}$ to the effect of multiplying $\frac{a}{b}$ by 1.

Tests are changing too...



- **Fall 2014:** Illinois is raising expectations for students on ISAT
 - Cut score raised
- **Spring 2014:** Field Testing-Common Core-connected ISAT
- **School year 2014-15:** PARCC
 - In ELA and Math
 - More detailed picture of knowledge and skills

What can families do? Six Steps to Success

English Language Arts

1. Read equal amounts of fiction and non-fiction with children
2. Focus on books which are of interest to individual children
3. Read more challenging texts with children
4. Look for evidence in reading and review
5. Write about nonfiction using evidence
6. Read by example and focus on vocabulary development

What can families do? Six Steps to Success

Math

1. Spend time on high priority concepts
2. Find out what children are struggling with and offer support on those gap skills
3. Know what facts children should have memorized, work on memorization with them
4. Brush up on math children need to learn so you can help
5. Engage children in solving everyday math problems
6. Practice the skills in which child is weakest

Real Learning for Real Life Campaign

- Visit CommonCoreIL.org for tools and resources
- Sign up to receive our free **Core Connection** newsletter
- Follow the Common Core conversation on social media



commoncoreil.com



[@commoncoreil](https://twitter.com/commoncoreil)

What can you do?

Learn more about the Common Core

- Look for resources at CommonCoreIL.org
- Appendix B- reading list suggestions
www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf
- American Library Association
www.ala.org
- Be prepared to answer parents' questions

Questions and Next Steps

- Contact information
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