

# The Common Core Learning Standards

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Learning Standards are the core element that drives student instruction. During this school year our teachers will embark upon a journey aligning our curriculum to the New Common Core Standards. Illinois has been the 44<sup>th</sup> state to adopt The Common Core Learning Standards. These standards were created through a collaborative effort among educators, researchers, and parents to ensure students would have the skills they need to be college and career ready.

These new standards are more rigorous and ensure that students will be prepared to enter college or have the skills necessary to enter the workforce. The common core standards clearly state what children should know and be able to do by the end of a school year for every grade level. It is important to know that while these standards were being made, they were benchmarked to international standards to ensure that our students are guaranteed to be competitive in the emerging global market.

A misconception about the common core is that these are national standards. The federal government was not involved with the development of the standards. This has been a state-led initiative and states are voluntarily adopting the standards. The common core standards were developed specifically to provide more clarity and consistency in what is expected of student learning across the country. Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) every state has had its own set of standards, meaning students at the same grade level in different states have been expected to achieve at different levels. The common core initiative allows states to provide all students with an equal access to an education that prepares them to go to college or begin a career, regardless of where they live.

The State of Illinois has recommended a gradual roll out of the Common Core Standards. The English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Standards were released during the 2010-2011 school year and the Science and Social Studies standards will be released soon. During this school year, the teachers will become familiar with the Common Core standards and begin the process of curriculum mapping our curriculum and assessments to the common core learning standards. All schools will be required to have their curriculum aligned to the common core standards for the start of the 2014-2015 school year which means Flossmoor should have our curriculum in place by the 2013-2014 school year to ensure our students have been exposed to the content of the common core a full year before assessment begins. By adopting the common core standards, the hope is to have smarter tests that will better evaluate student growth and progress. These new standards will help students in Flossmoor 161 to compete in the global economy, not only with their American peers, but with students from every country.

For more information about the Common Core standards visit: [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)