



Resources for Parents and Families on CCSS

As teachers and students transition to higher, more rigorous standards, parents want and need information about what this means for their children, how and why schoolwork (and homework) may look different, and what resources are available to help them stay informed and able to support their students' learning. Following is a sample of the resources that state education agencies, school districts, and third-party and national advocacy organizations have developed to empower parents to help their students succeed.

How and Why School Work and Homework May Look Different:

- [Achieve's Grade-Band Guides to the CCSS](#) and [Parent Questions](#)— Achieve developed these resources, organized by grade band, to explain the shifts occurring in students' classrooms and illustrate concrete examples of what parents can expect their children to know by the end of each school year. The accompanying questions can be shared with parents to facilitate conversations among teachers and parents about how and why learning might look different and what they can do to help.
- [Alabama GRIT Parents' Fact Sheet](#) – This resource provides facts and statistics to help parents understand the changes in education standards in their children's classrooms.
- [The Aspen Institute's CCSS Introduction for Families and Other Stakeholders](#) – This information sheet explains what the standards are and why they are important for improving education. It includes information for parents about new methods of instruction, how their children will be tested, and how they can best support their children's success.
- [Council of the Great City Schools' Parent Roadmaps](#) – These resources provide content- and grade-specific information for parents about the expectations of the CCSS in math. These roadmaps include examples of grade-level content aligned to the CCSS using parent-friendly language, sample progressions of learning across three grade levels in the CCSS, and tips for parents on communicating with teachers about their children's work and how to support student learning at home.
- [Hunt Institute/National PTA Common Core Videos](#) – This video series features the supportive voices of students, parents, teachers, school leaders, and policymakers with a particular focus on educator reflections on the value and implications of the new standards.
- [Montgomery County \(MD\) Public Schools Math Curriculum Page](#) – This landing page includes a video, [brochure](#) available in seven languages, and math quick links about "Curriculum 2.0" aligned to the CCSS in math. Other resources such as ["What is Math-Curriculum 2.0?,"](#) ["Why is the Math Program Changing?,"](#) and ["How Can I Support My Child?"](#) provide additional tools to empower parents and families.
- [National Council of La Raza's CCSS Fact Sheet](#) – This resource provides information about what the new standards are, why they're needed, and how in particular they will benefit Latino students.
- [National Council of Teachers of Mathematics](#) – These resources, available in English, Spanish, and French, help parents work with their children's schools to understand the shifts occurring in math education. Resources such as ["Why does my child's math look different?"](#) and ["This Isn't The Math I Remember!"](#) provide side-by-side



comparisons of how ‘new math’ differs from what parents are used to and provide context around why the increase in focus on deeper understanding of mathematical concepts will help their children succeed.

- [National PTA Parents’ Guide to Student Success](#) – This guide provides an overview for parents of what they can expect their children to learn by the end of each grade level, includes information about why these academic standards are important, and outlines sample tasks from the classroom.
- [The Ohio Standard Parent Guides](#) – These guides, co-developed by the National and Ohio PTAs with input from The Ohio Standard coalition, offer parents grade-by-grade examples of the new standards outlining the knowledge and skills children will gain at each grade level, as well as activities they can do with their children to reinforce learning at home.

Resources to Help Students:

- [Expect More Arizona Parents and Families page](#) – This landing page features grade-by-grade guides to the standards, suggested questions for parent/teacher conferences, and other useful links.
- [GreatKids Milestones](#) – This site offers examples of what essential skills in reading, writing and math look like, grade by grade. Currently available videos include milestones for math, reading and writing in grades K-5.
- [Illustrative Math](#) – Illustrative Mathematics provides a library of tasks searchable by grade and subject matter and a series of videos on fractions progressions. Parents can use these resources to reinforce concepts found in their children’s homework and provide examples of tasks for extra practice.
- [Khan Academy](#) – This site features a library of over 2,700 instructional videos and 240 practice exercises covering a variety of subjects, including many elementary math topics. A searchable toolbar allows parents to sort videos and exercises by the math skill encompassed in the CCSS in math.
- [LearnZillion](#) – LearnZillion.com offers a free and growing set of math and English Language resources for grades 2-12 that have been developed by expert teachers directly from the CCSS. Parents can use the search bar at the top of the webpage to access quick video lessons.
- [National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Homework Help](#) – This landing page provides a variety of tools and games parents can use with their children, organized by grade level, to help with homework.

Other General Communications Resources:

- [Achieve the Core](#) – This website contains a compilation of resources assembled for parents and community members seeking to learn more about the CCSS. These resources include [parent guides](#), [videos](#), and [overview slide decks](#).
- [The Alliance for Excellent Education](#) – These resources arm parents with information about the CCSS and their importance for helping their children succeed. Specifically, the Alliance’s fact sheet, [“Common Core State Standards 101”](#) and their blog series, [“Core of the Matter”](#) provide parents information about the changes occurring in their children’s schools.



- [California Department of Education’s CCSS Resources for Parents and Guardians](#) – These resources explain more about the CCSS and to help parents explore how to support their children’s success. These include a [“What are the Common Core Standards?”](#) information page, [informational handouts](#) in multiple languages, a [communication tools web page](#) developed by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, and [videos](#).
- [Colorado Academic Standards and Common Core Communications Toolkit](#) – These communications tools help inform the community about academic standards. Included in the toolkit are [FAQs](#), [Key Messaging](#), [Fact Sheets](#), and links to external resources.
- [Conservatives for Higher Standards’ Tools for Parents](#) – This compilation of materials equips parents with facts about the CCSS, debunks common myths about the standards and provides information to assuage common concern parents have expressed. Among other resources available are [FAQs](#), [Debunking the Myths](#), and information about [parental choice](#) and [protecting student privacy](#) in the context of higher standards.
- [EngageNY’s Parent and Family Resources](#) – This collection of materials and resources helps parents and families understand the CCSS. Among other resources, the Toolkit includes a Parent’s Backpack Guide to the Common Core and a tip sheet on what parents can do to help their children at home.
- [Expect More Achieve More Tennessee’s Parent Brochure](#) – This quick reference outlines for parents what the CCSS are, why they are important, and what parents can do to help their children.
- [The Hunt Institute](#) – The Hunt Institute resources help families learn more about the content, organization, and focus of the standards, as well as how the standards can provide a solid foundation for improving student achievement. These resources include a [video](#), [myths vs. facts](#), a [general overview](#), and a [specific overview of the math content](#) in the CCSS.
- [Idaho State Department of Education’s Idaho Core Standards Communications Toolkit](#) – These resources help communicate to parents and families about the Idaho Core Standards, including why Idaho adopted them and how they will be implemented at the local level. Among other resources, the toolkit includes a sample parent letter, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#); FAQs in [English](#) and [Spanish](#); myths vs. facts in [English](#) and [Spanish](#); and a parent brochure in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- [Kentucky Department of Education’s CCSS Parent Guide](#) – This resource provides parents context around what the new standards mean for their children and what they as parents can expect from the CCSS.
- [National Urban League](#) – These resources help parents understand what the CCSS are, their background, and specifics about how parents can support their students in reaching success. Their [fact sheet](#), [background document](#), [assessment information sheet](#), and [parent guide](#) are all useful tools to help parents learn more and engage in their children’s learning.