

College and Career Readiness & Common Core

WHAT PARENTS & FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

Education is more valued and necessary than ever before.

By 2018, 56% of the jobs in South Carolina will require a college degree or industry credentials. Being ready for college means that a high school graduate has the English and mathematics knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial coursework. A “career” in today’s economy is not just a job. A career provides a family-sustaining wage and pathways to advancement and requires postsecondary training or education. A job may be obtained with only a high school diploma, but offers no guarantee of advancement or mobility. Being ready for a career means that a high school graduate has the English, and mathematics knowledge and skills needed to qualify for and succeed in the postsecondary job training and/or education necessary for their chosen career (i.e. technical/vocational program, community college, apprenticeship or significant on-the-job training).

The **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)** are kindergarten through grade 12 English Language Arts and Math standards designed to help ensure that all students are college and career-ready no later than the end of high school. The standards, written by experts from across the nation at the request of governors and state superintendents of education, are designed to be clear, consistent, and rigorous. Currently, 45 states have adopted the CCSS so the goals and expectations for students in South Carolina will be shared with children around the country.

WHAT MAKES CCSS DIFFERENT?

- They are aligned with expectations for college and career success
- They define the skills and abilities that students need to know, so that educators and parents know what they need to do to help students learn.
- They are consistent across all states, so that students are not taught to a lower standard just because of where they live.
- They include both content and the application of knowledge through high-order skills like evaluating and creating.
- They build upon strengths and lessons of current state standard as well as standards of top-performing nations.
- They are realistic, so they can be used effectively in the classroom.
- They are evidence and research-based.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO LEARN MORE?

Go online to www.scfriendlystandards.org to see Family-Friendly Guides to the standards. These documents, produced by the Council of Great City Schools, provide guidance in English Language Arts and Math at each grade level.

Also, talk to your child’s teachers about how the CCSS are being implemented in classrooms and ask for suggestions on how you can reinforce learning at home.



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