

WHAT'S CHANGING IN OHIO EDUCATION

Ohio's New Learning Standards

Ohio's education system has improved in recent years, with better early childhood education programs, improvements in testing, and more emphasis on holding schools accountable for student achievement. Yet this year, Ohio ranked 11th among the 50 states in the quality of its education system, with only a C+ grade. We still have work to do. Part of that work is setting higher expectations for what our children learn in the classroom.

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What is changing?

In 2010, Ohio adopted new, more demanding learning standards for students in math, English language arts, science and social studies. Ohio's New Learning Standards allow for all kinds of learners to become well-prepared for college and careers.

The math and English language arts standards are called Common Core State Standards because Ohio worked with many other states to develop them. The science and social studies standards are specific to Ohio. Students will learn to apply increasingly difficult math concepts to many different situations. Under the new English language arts standards, students will learn better reading, writing and communication skills. They will closely analyze what they are reading, write arguments with claims and reasoning, and think critically to draw their own conclusions. Ohio students also will build strong foundations in science and technology and learn to apply them to real-world experiences, often in their own communities.

How will these standards be different?

Students will study only the most important and useful concepts within each subject, each year. They will drill much deeper into each area, learning to apply more knowledge and skills in the subject than ever before. The standards will help students see how different subjects like math, science and English language arts connect.

Why is the change needed?

More than 40 percent of Ohio high school graduates who enroll in Ohio public institutions of higher education are not prepared for college-level work. Some Ohio employers believe that Ohio will not have enough graduates to fill the good, higher-paying jobs and careers that will be available.

A high school diploma will mean more. They will graduate with the abilities to compete for Ohio's and the world's best jobs. They will be more informed and empowered citizens. They will lead Ohio forward into a brighter future.

Common Core Transition

2010-2011

- Build awareness of new standards
- Conduct crosswalk activities
- Participate in creating model curricula

2011-2012

- Introduce model curricula
- Conduct curriculum gap analysis
- Initiate professional development
- Begin using new standards in Grades K-2 and 11-12

2012-2013

- Revise curriculum based on analysis findings
- Participate in assessment pilots
- Continue professional development

2013-2014

- Integrate standards and curricula into district curricula and teachers' course planning
- Integrate performance tasks in course activities
- Prepare for online testing
- Complete professional development