WHAT'S CHANGING IN OHIO EDUCATION

Ohio's New Learning Standards

Ohio's students are behind many of their international peers in the knowledge and skills they gain from their schooling. At one time, U.S. students ranked near the top in the world. Today, China's students rank highest in the world in science, mathematics and reading. U.S. students rank 23rd, 31st and 17th in those subjects.

What is changing?

In 2010, Ohio adopted new, 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 overlap.

Why is the change needed?

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

A high school diploma will mean more. Ohio's students will not simply memorize facts that are forgotten once they pass the test. They will graduate with the abilities to compete for Ohio's and the world's best jobs. They will make more informed and empowered citizens. They will lead Ohio forward into a brighter future.

For more information visit:
curriculum.education.ohio.gov

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