

Newsletter article

What Ohio's New Learning Standards Mean for Your Child

This year, your child will be learning under new standards in math, English, science and social studies. These standards contain higher goals for what your child needs to know in each grade. The math and English standards are also known as the Common Core State Standards. Ohio and other states, not the federal government, worked together to create these Common Core standards. Ohio teachers, subject experts and education leaders created Ohio's standards for science and social studies.

You will notice three main changes in your child's learning under each of the new standards:

- **The teacher will cover fewer topics within each subject**, but will cover each of those topics more thoroughly. Let's use third-grade math as an example. Your student will study fewer concepts, but will get a more complete understanding of those concepts, such as multiplication and division.
- **Higher expectations for what kids learn.** The standards call for students to have a deeper understanding of the subjects they learn so they can use that understanding in everyday life. Your teacher also will encourage your child to think critically about what he or she is learning, be innovative, solve problems and work together with others. These are skills that your son or daughter can use both in and outside school. They also are skills your child will need some day to be successful in college or jobs.
- **Clearer definitions of achievement.** Your teacher will be able to explain to you more clearly whether your student is learning all that he or she needs to know to move to the next grade and beyond.

Teachers can tailor their lessons to all kinds of learners under the new standards. As always, talk with your child's teacher if you have special concerns about his or her learning.

Source: Ohio Department of Education, August 2013

The Ohio Department of Education grants public schools and districts in Ohio the right to reprint this article.