



**Common Core State Standards are here.  
HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD?**

**Talk to teachers.** Work with teachers to understand what will be expected of children this year and create a plan to help them succeed. Start your conversation with these questions about the Common Core State Standards.

- ▶ **Ask your child's teachers for specific examples of how Common Core has changed their curriculum and lesson plans.** The Common Core is a framework for what students must learn but educators are still the ones who decide what they will teach to get students to the new benchmarks. Talk with your child's teacher to learn what will be new in your child's classroom.
- ▶ **Ask your teachers how you can best help your child succeed in school.** Transitioning to the higher, more in-depth Common Core standards may make some lessons more challenging than normal for your child. This will mean changes in homework, tests and possibly grades.
- ▶ **Go beyond the classroom.** If your child needs a little extra help or wants to learn more about a subject, work with his or her teacher to identify opportunities for tutoring, to get involved in clubs after school, or to find other resources.
- ▶ **Do your homework.** The PTA offers guides that explain the changes the Common Core will bring at each grade level and offer questions to ask teachers. Find your child's grade guide at: [www.NationalPTA.org](http://www.NationalPTA.org) > For Parents > Guides to Success

**Help your child learn at home.** Learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home to succeed in their studies. By taking these small steps, you will be helping your child become successful both in and outside the classroom.

- ▶ **Make a place for study at home.** Create a quiet place for schoolwork at home, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate on reading, writing and math uninterrupted by friends, brothers, or sisters, or other distractions.
- ▶ **Make your child's homework your business.** Sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.