

Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS) and Common Core

WHAT IS COMMON CORE?

The Common Core State Standards are a set of internationally benchmarked standards established to help states better align their various individual standards. According to the Common Core mission statement, they "provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers." Alabama, adopted the standards in November of 2010.

Alabama's State Board of Education has the only authority on what standards (goals) our state adopts. Local school systems develop their own curricula (how its taught) and choose their own textbooks to teach from every day. Your child's teacher develops their own lesson plans for instruction in your child's classroom.

The Common Core Standards are grade-by-grade K-12 standards in English and math that are grounded in research, and aim to prepare all students for college and careers after graduation. They are common because they ensure that all students are held to the same educational expectations. A major shift in the Alabama standards is that they address reading, writing, and literacy across all curriculum subjects. They include literacy standards for science, social studies and

technical subjects. These standards do not replace content in any subject but rather include literacy in all subjects. Alabama has combined the Common Core standards with its own standards to create the Alabama College & Career Ready Standards (CCRS). Academic standards are goals for what students should know by the end of each school year. Alabama standards focus on helping students gain a deep understanding of the concepts being taught and how they apply to real life.

The standards provide students, parents, and teachers with a clear understanding of what students are expected to learn at every grade level, serving as a roadmap to a quality education. Student outcomes improve when parents, teachers, and students are working together toward shared goals.

The Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS) expect more of students than our previous Alabama standards. As a result students will be better prepared for life. The old standards only asked students to have a basic knowledge of what was being taught. The new standards require students to do more than just memorize material but effectively apply concepts to real world situations.

If your child receives special education, they will be provided the same CCRS content as all students without disabilities. Your IEP will address which standards your child is learning and the supports and accommodations needed to ensure your child's educational success. Alabama also has



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alternate standards based on the CCRS for students with significant learning support needs. You in collaboration with your child's teachers and other support personnel of the IEP team, will determine the standards and supports needed to ensure your child's educational success.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Students are up for the CCRS challenge, but parental involvement is critical to helping a child achieve more. Things you can do as a parent to support your child's learning include:

- Set aside time every day when your child can concentrate on reading, writing, and math.
- Ask your child questions about their schoolwork and encourage them to explain how they got to an answer. Asking questions helps your child to learn.
- Talk to your child's teacher and ask how you can help at home.
- Ask your teacher what the CCRS means to your child's classroom instruction.
- Ask your child's IEP team how standards are being integrated in the program plan and how you can ensure progress of your child by the standards.

ALABAMA STANDARDS

To learn more about the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards you can visit the Alabama

State Department of Education's website to read and review the standards at <http://www.alsde.edu/Pages/home.aspx>

To learn more about Math standards in Alabama visit: <https://www.alsde.edu/sec/sct/COS/2013%20Revised%20Alabama%20Mathematics%20Course%20of%20Study.pdf>

To learn more about English standards in Alabama visit: http://web.alsde.edu/general/ALCCS_Alabama_English_Language_Arts_Course_of_Study.pdf

To learn more about how to support your child with disabilities receiving special education services visit: <http://web.alsde.edu/home/Sections/SectionInfo.aspx?SectionID=65>

You can contact APEC to discuss how you can support your child's learning at home to ensure their educational success.

APEC IS HERE TO HELP

APEC provides free training, information, and consultation to families. Visit our training calendar for more information about learning opportunities at www.alabamaparentcenter.com or call our center.

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