

## WHAT ARE THE PENNSYLVANIA CORE STANDARDS?

The State Board adopted Common Core Standards in July 2010. Since that time, the decision was made to craft a set of Pennsylvania (PA) Core Standards tailored to meet our state specific needs in English Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as for Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies and Science/Technical Subjects. A group of Pennsylvania educators crafted the PA Core Standards, which mirror the academic rigor of the Common Core State Standards, are attainable for students, practicable for teachers and districts, and reflect the organization and design of the PA Academic Standards.

In compliance with Chapter 4 (§4.11), Pennsylvania's Core Standards are a set of rigorous, high-quality academic expectations in English Language arts (ELA) and mathematics that all students should master by the end of each grade level. The PA Core Standards are robust and relevant to the real world and reflect the knowledge and skills our young people need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education and a globally competitive workforce.

PA CORE SHIFTS	
ELA/LITERACY	MATHEMATICS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Building knowledge</b> through <b>content-rich nonfiction</b>.</li><li>2. Reading, writing and speaking grounded in <b>evidence from text</b>, both literary and informational text.</li><li>3. Regular practice with <b>complex text</b> and its <b>academic language</b>.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Focus</b> strongly where the Standards focus.</li><li>2. <b>Coherence: Think</b> across grades, and <b>link</b> to major topics within grades.</li><li>3. <b>Rigor</b>: In major topics pursue <b>conceptual understanding</b>, procedural skill and <b>fluency</b>, and <b>application</b> with equal intensity.</li></ol>

## WHAT DO THE PA CORE STANDARDS MEAN FOR PARENTS?

- The PA Core Standards, describe exactly what your child(ren) should learn by the end of each grade level.
- PA Core Standards establish clear expectations for students, which better enables parents, teachers and children to work together toward shared goals.
- The PA Core Standards shifts instructional intent from high school completion to college and career readiness therefore, your child(ren) will be prepared for opportunities beyond high school.
- PA Core Standards requires content to be taught at a much greater depth.

- Curriculum and standardized assessments (PSSA and Keystone) are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards.
- With the Pennsylvania Core standards, you can be assured that students in your school are learning to the rigorous, high quality standards as other students in Pennsylvania.

### **WHY PENNSYLVANIA CORE STANDARDS?**

- Life requires more than one skill at a time. A quick trip to the grocery store requires planning, reading, math facts, estimation, communication, and critical thinking to make the right purchases. The PA Core Standards requires one to integrate his/her learning just as one does when grocery shopping and filling one's grocery cart.
- English class is not the only place you need to read and write. The PA Core Standards include standards for reading and writing in Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects designed to help students apply and develop reading and writing skills in all classes.
- Basic math is not enough. The PA Core Standards for math emphasize conceptual understanding, not just computation, to make sure students are learning and absorbing the critical information to succeed as through school and beyond.
- Students need to be ready for what comes next. Students will have many choices after high school—work, college, career training, apprenticeship, and military service. The goal of PA Core Standards is to prepare students for “choice”.
- Learning is a lifelong skill. It is very likely that graduates will change careers more than once after high school. The PA Core Standards will provide the knowledge and skills necessary to take advantage of a wide range of career opportunities in the rapidly changing, 21st century workplace.

### **WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?**

- Learn about the PA Core Standards and how they impact your child's education.
- Play an active role in your child's education. If you notice your child is struggling in a certain area, consult with his or her teacher to identify strategies and resources that might be helpful.

For more information visit: [www.pdesas.org](http://www.pdesas.org)