



Foundation for
Excellence
in Education



FLORIDA: AN EDUCATION SUCCESS STORY

The Florida Formula for Student Achievement.

For more than a decade, Florida has made dramatic gains in education by providing parents more choices, strengthening accountability, raising standards, rewarding effective teachers and using outcome-based funding. *Education in Florida is improving and the results of our students' successes speak for themselves:*

- Between 1999 and 2012, Florida's high school graduation rate increased by **22.5 percent**.
- Florida's gains on the Nation's Report Card between 1992 and 2011 ranked **second in the United States**, just after Maryland.
- Florida's fourth-graders ranked **second in the world**, and far above the national average, in reading achievement on the most recent international student literacy test.
- During the past two decades, public school

students in Florida have made the **second-highest academic gains in the nation** on standardized test scores, all while protecting taxpayers' investment in education and cutting waste and bureaucracy.

But there is much farther to go. Florida's leaders cannot rest on the past decade of success in improving education. Progress will not continue if we don't ensure children are moving forward each and every year. It's time to raise standards to get the results needed to keep Florida students competitive with their peers across the nation and around the globe.

It is critical to ensure children and students are prepared for college or a meaningful career. That's why many parents, educators, and state and business leaders support Florida's adoption of the Common Core Standards.

IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN, AND ALL FLORIDA STUDENTS, TO BE PREPARED TO ENTER COLLEGE OR THE WORKFORCE, THEN SUPPORTING THE COMMON CORE INITIATIVE IS THE NEXT STEP.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS: HIGHER STANDARDS FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE

For our students to succeed and our economy to grow, Florida's schools must be competitive with other states and with nations around the globe. Common Core State Standards were created with this goal in mind. Giving students the skills and knowledge to succeed beyond high school will benefit generations of Floridians to come. Here are a few important facts about higher standards.

Common Core State Standards ARE:

- A **rigorous and clear set of academic expectations** of what Florida students should know, understand and be able to explain in the areas of English and math at each grade level, Kindergarten through twelfth grade.
- Higher standards that focus on **improving critical thinking skills** to better prepare students to be successful in college and the workforce.
- **State-driven, voluntary** and pave the way for **less federal regulation and more innovation.**
- Developed by experienced educators, leaders and experts nationwide who built on the **best and highest** state standards existing in the United States.
- **Saving taxpayer dollars** in the long-term by **lessening future generations' dependence**

on taxpayer-funded government aid and **reducing remediation costs** at the public university and community college level.

Common Core State Standards ARE NOT:

- A curriculum. Teachers are not told how to teach and are free to encourage creativity. Textbooks, lesson plans and other materials remain a **local decision.**
- Federally mandated. Forty-five states have adopted higher standards **voluntarily.**
- "Dumbing down" our schools. The standards were written by examining the expectations of **high-performing** countries around the world.
- Intruding on student privacy. The **federal government remains without access** to personal information on individual students.

WHILE FLORIDA HAS MADE INCREDIBLE GAINS IN ACADEMICS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO BETTER.

For More Information

www.HigherCoreStandards.org

