

# NEW SC COLLEGE AND CAREER-READY STANDARDS IN ELA AND MATHEMATICS

2015-16 School Year Resources for Families



## So what does my child need to learn this year?

In March of 2015 the state adopted the new South Carolina College and Career-Ready Standards. These standards define the knowledge and skills in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics that children in kindergarten through grade 12 need to have to be college and career ready for the 21st century. Educators, parents, business leaders, and community leaders throughout the state met and wrote these standards. The state's colleges and universities reviewed the standards and agreed that students who met these standards would be ready for college and career upon graduating. In fact, the state has endorsed the following [Profile of the South Carolina Graduate](#). The profile focuses on the key knowledge, skills and characteristics that children need to have upon graduation from high school.

The state also has standards in science and social studies. These standards written in family-friendly terms can be found at <http://scfriendlystandards.org>.

## Key things to remember:

1. Make sure your child is reading or being read to daily! Twenty minutes a day is a good start. Your child's reading ability at the end of third grade is a predictor of his or her ability to graduate from high school.
2. While the foundations of mathematics have not changed,  $2 + 2$  still equals 4, students will be learning mathematics differently. Why? The world is changing everyday. Advances in science, technology, and communication make it necessary for students to learn more about mathematics than just the facts. Students need to be able to solve real world problems; explain their thinking to others; identify and analyze data; and use technology.

Consequently, your child's homework is changing. Your child will be asked to explain how they solved a problem and why. Often students will solve problems using data and technology that are applied to real-world problems. Your child will have to learn to communicate in writing and verbally the steps used to solve problems. It's all about helping our students to think while learning.

3. Try to make every lesson or experience relevant to your child! For example, during a trip to the grocery store, use labels and signs to improve reading skills or weigh produce to focus on measurement. You can even have a lesson on fractions by choosing between items based on price per unit.

## WHAT ARE STANDARDS?

Standards make sure that teachers know what needs to be taught and what children need to learn at each grade level. Standards help inform families about the academic expectations for their child so that parents know the type of help their child needs to succeed. Standards represent what your child should be able to know and do at the end of the school year. How the standards are taught is left up to the curriculum selected and your child's teacher.

## WHAT HAS CHANGED?

The content of the standards, such as being able to count by 10s to 100 by the end of kindergarten or to read independently by the end of 1st grade, is very similar to previous standards taught in our schools. However, South Carolinians agreed to raise the rigor or expectations of students in several grades.

The SC Department of Education and the Education Oversight Committee are working on a complete revision of the Family Friendly Standards, a document that describes the standards in family-friendly terms. In the meantime, please refer to <http://scfriendlystandards.org/> for additional information.

This information should help you and your child have a successful 2015-16 school year!

## RESOURCES FOR HELPING YOUR STUDENT IN MATH

Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 5  
USDE, Helping Your Child Learn Math

[www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math](http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math)

Websites with activities and downloads to help your student develop number sense, understand place value, learn number patterns, and learn other math concepts:

[www.smartfirstgraders.com/](http://www.smartfirstgraders.com/)  
[www.letsplaymath.net/](http://www.letsplaymath.net/)  
[www.softschools.com/math/](http://www.softschools.com/math/)

### Grades 6-8

Challenging activities for middle school students:

[www.figurethis.org](http://www.figurethis.org)  
[www.learnzillion.com](http://www.learnzillion.com)  
[www.scetv.org](http://www.scetv.org)

### PARENT TIP:

Ask questions to help your children solve unfamiliar problems rather than showing them how to solve them.



**Family-friendly guides to South Carolina academic standards**

Hablas espanol?

**Know the standards**

There are six key reasons why parents should be familiar with South Carolina's academic standards:

1. Standards set clear, high expectations for student achievement. Standards tell what students need to do in order to progress through school on grade level.
2. Standards guide efforts to measure student achievement. Results of tests on grade-level academic standards (i.e., PASS) show if students have learned and teachers have taught for mastery.
3. Standards promote educational equity for all. Instruction in every school in the state is based on the same academic standards.
4. Standards inform parents about the academic expectations for their child. Standards give parents more specific information for helping their child at home. Parents no longer have to guess the type of help their child needs to do better in school.
5. Standards enable parents to participate more actively in parent/teacher conferences. Knowledge of the academic standards helps parents understand more about what their child is learning and what they can do at each grade level. Parents are able to have conversations with teachers about student progress in specific areas and understand

**Become a member of your child's success team**

A good educational system provides many tools that help children learn. Parents and families are a big part of a child's success team because a great deal of learning goes on outside the classroom. The information on this site can help you become familiar with what your child is learning at school and it includes activities to reinforce and support your child's learning, selected book titles for additional reading, and Web site addresses for extended learning.

This website provides information for parents and families about what their children should be learning in school for the school year 2013-2014. The information incorporates the new Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics in grades K-8. The standards for Science and Social Studies incorporate the most recent South Carolina Academic Standards for those subjects.

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## RESOURCES FOR HELPING YOUR STUDENT IN ELA

### Pre-Kindergarten - Grade 5

USDE, Helping Your Child Become a Reader  
<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html>

Websites with activities to help your student develop phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills:

[www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov)  
(Student Reading Success Activity Guide)

[www.surfnetkids.com/](http://www.surfnetkids.com/)

### Grades 6-8

Challenging activities for middle school students:

[www.scetv.org](http://www.scetv.org)