

A PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE TO College and Career Readiness Standards and Assessments

What does it take to be *ready* for life after high school?

Think of an athlete who needs to know when to make certain plays, or a musician who needs to be able to read notes, or a builder who needs architectural plans before construction gets underway. Today, students are gaining knowledge to be ready for college and a career. This means he or she will walk into a college classroom, job site, or a training program with the tools to tackle almost anything, from day one.

What are the tools for success?

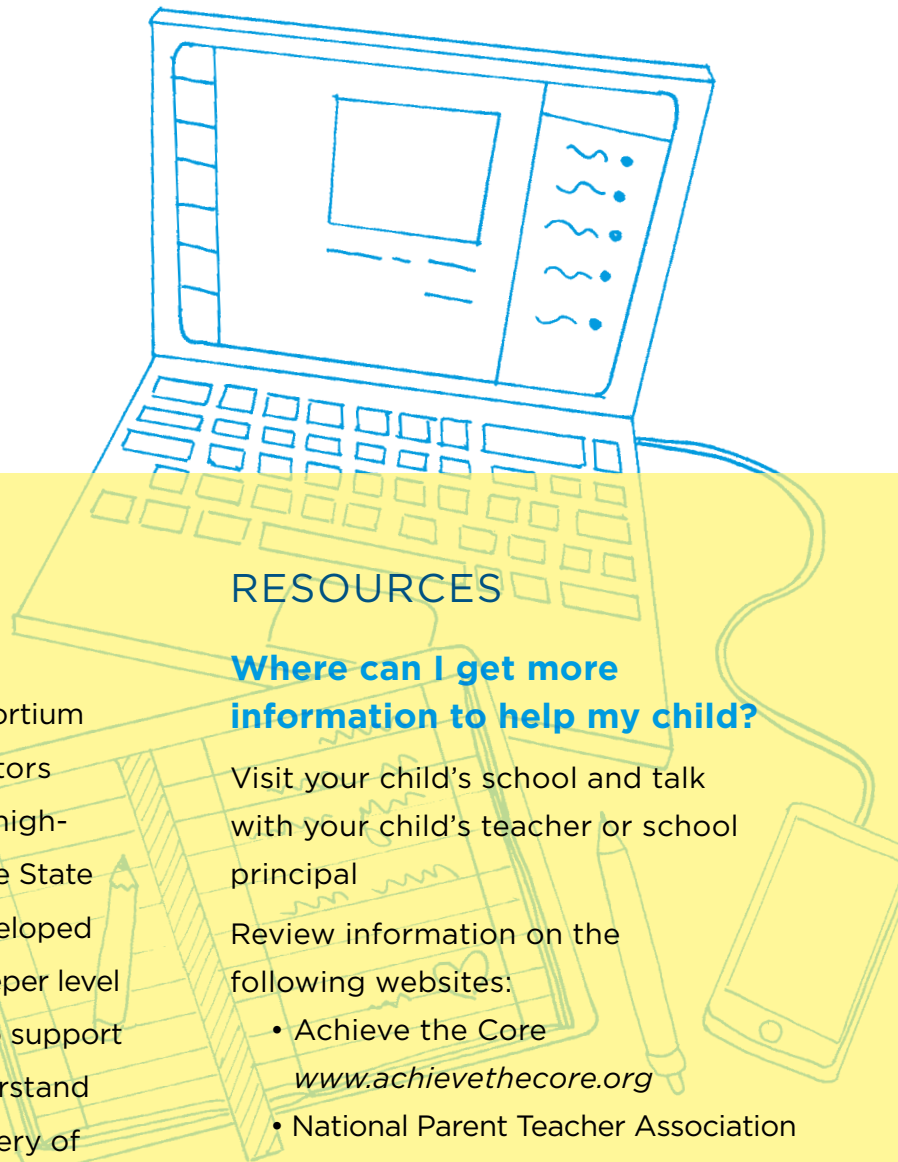
Students who have a strong foundation for college and career will, among other things, have proficiency in essential content knowledge, mastered key learning skills, and acquired practical knowledge that will help them transition from high school to college and career. Educators in your state described them when they created a definition of College and Career Readiness.

What are College and Career Readiness Standards?

Over 40 states have adopted a set of new academic standards that focus on the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills students need in today's world. Known as the Common Core State Standards, they describe the skills and knowledge students need to master at every grade level in English and Math. These new standards require new tests to match the skills being taught in the classroom. These tests serve as an academic checkup, helping teachers and parents know how well students are progressing and if they are ready for the next step. These tests are designed to replace the previous statewide tests in English and Math.

For more information on the Common Core, visit: www.corestandards.org





ASSESSMENTS

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is a group of states that brought educators and other experts together to develop high-quality tests aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The states and educators developed new tests with the goal of providing a deeper level of information to teachers and parents to support student learning. Teachers need to understand how students are working towards mastery of these challenging skills. These tests help inform teachers' instruction so they can personalize learning and meet the needs of all students.

For more information on The Smarter Balanced Assessment, visit: www.smarterbalanced.org

RESOURCES

Where can I get more information to help my child?

Visit your child's school and talk with your child's teacher or school principal

Review information on the following websites:

- Achieve the Core
www.achievethecore.org
- National Parent Teacher Association
www.pta.org
- Be a Learning Hero
www.bealearninghero.org

