

# FACT SHEET

## WHAT IS COMMON CORE?



Common Core provides clear standards for grade levels and across schools. Parents can be confident they understand what their children need to know for each grade level. Students continue to learn factual information, but will also receive

a deeper education that will focus on critical thinking and analysis. Students will benefit by being better prepared to succeed in college and careers as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century evolves.

## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP



Homework will be tougher, as students work to meet new, higher standards. Families are uniquely positioned to help children build a bridge between their schoolwork and the world. Including children in developing the family budget or mapping out a road trip can bring classroom concepts into real life. Parents can also model skills

like persistence, teamwork and patience. Students are more likely to succeed and have a positive attitude when family members encourage them to be persistent. Talk with your children's teachers for tips on how to help your child succeed.

## HOW COMMON CORE BENEFITS STUDENTS

In addition to learning factual information, students will be developing the ability to solve problems as they arise. That's what we all need to do in real life and what businesses are looking for in the people they hire.

In a world where we don't know what the jobs of tomorrow will look like, being able to analyze the situation and solve problems will be key for a student's future success.

## WHAT COMMON CORE MEANS TO TEACHERS

Common Core learning standards give far more flexibility to teachers and districts than they have had before. These standards set out what each student is expected to know by the end of the school year. However, the standards do not tell the teacher how to teach. The curriculum, specific books, lesson plans and classroom exercises are left up to each district to decide on its own. By doing this, the Common Core learning standards allow individual communities to tailor learning exercises and lessons to their own students and histories.



## WHAT BUSINESS LEADERS SAY



Business leaders are looking for critical thinkers and problem solvers. These skills, which are at the center of Common Core, are currently needed in the workforce. As jobs in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century continue to change, business leaders need people who can analyze the changes and

determine how the business can evolve to meet them. Business leaders are looking to high schools, community colleges and universities to help their students develop these vital capabilities. Capable employees are not only critical to the health of their individual businesses, but to Orange County's economy as a whole.