

Schiesher Implements New Common Core State Standards

Education is experiencing some significant changes with the recent Illinois adoption of the Common Core State Standards. The Common Core State Standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators and experts to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

These standards are created from the highest, most effective models from states across the country and countries around the world, and provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn. At this time 44 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the new Common Core State Standards. These consistent standards will provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live.

The Common Core State Standards:

- Are aligned with college and work expectations;
- Are clear, understandable and consistent;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills;
- Have a high level of technology integration
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Are formed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society.

Schiesher has been reviewing these new standards and updating and improving our curriculum in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. During our Common Core State Standards analysis we discovered that there are two areas that parents can help us with at home. When reading to or with your child, please increase the amount of reading of non-fiction text. By increasing the frequency and duration of non-fiction reading with your child you expose them to more content specific knowledge which supports our expectation that children are able to read and write across all academic areas, such as science and social studies.

The second area we need help with is math fact fluency. Our data and experience tells us that when children do not have automaticity with their math facts they begin to struggle with the progressively more difficult math concepts they are being exposed to. Our goal is to teach children to think more mathematically and be able to solve difficult problems in a variety of ways. Math fact fluency is a foundational skill that will support these expectations.

The adoption of the new Common Core State Standards means a shift in focus from what is taught to what students need to be able to do in order to be successful in their school careers, in life and in the workforce. We invite you to become more familiar with the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics by visiting www.corestandards.org.