

COMMON CORE

REAL LEARNING FOR REAL LIFE

✓ Reality Check

The world is changing – as are the expectations for what individuals need to be able to know and do in order to be successful in college, careers, and life. Our education system must change to meet these challenges and provide today's students with the skills they need to be prepared for tomorrow.

Once a world leader in education, the U.S. has fallen behind other top performing countries.

- *The U.S. ranks 25th out of 34 top performing countries in math, and 17th in science.*
- *The U.S. has fallen from 1st to 10th in the number of students who graduate high school, and ranks 12th in the number of 24-36 year-olds with a college degree.*

The new reality is that a high school diploma is just the starting point. Tomorrow's jobs will require more education and training, and new skills.

- *By 2018, 63% of all jobs will require some kind of post secondary education or training.*
- *60% of employers say that job applicants lack the necessary skills to fill open positions.*
- *It is estimated that the U.S. will fall short by at least 3 million middle and high skills workers by 2018.*

American students are leaving school without the skills and education needed to succeed.

- *66% of Maryland's students in 2-year colleges and 48% of those in 4-year colleges require remediation.*
- *34% of employers deem the preparation of newly hired employees with only a high school diploma as "deficient."*

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The best way to prepare students for college, careers, and life after high school is to ensure that they graduate with a strong foundation in the core academic areas that will open doors in the future. That's why Maryland and 45 other states are raising the bar for students by adopting the Common Core Standards.

Developed and validated by K-12, higher education, and industry leaders, the Common Core challenges our students to build a deeper understanding of subject matter, learn how to think critically, and apply their learning to the real world.

THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS ARE:

- ✓ Grade-specific academic standards in math and English/language arts
- ✓ Higher, clearer, deeper, and based on what students must learn to succeed in college and modern careers
- ✓ Creating the same expectations for all students so families can understand exactly what every student should be learning
- ✓ Emphasizing skills students will need for today's workplace: collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity
- ✓ Built upon strengths and lessons from the highest-performing states and countries



To learn more:
MarylandPublicSchools.org
Toll Free 1-888-246-0016