

# Supporting Common Core State Standards

## Explore careers with your child

College and career readiness is the main goal of the Common Core State Standards. Schools want to prepare students to succeed in higher education and the workforce. Parents want children to grow up and have satisfying work that suits their skills and interests. While most kids don't have any idea of what career they might want to follow yet, the information they need to learn about careers is all around them.

- **Take your child to the library.** Ask a librarian to show you the occupation reference section. Visit this section to learn about careers that may interest your child.
- **Play games** with your child that focus on careers. For example, ask your child to look through the newspaper or online for an interesting job posting. Talk about how your child would prepare for that job.
- **Create opportunities** for your child to learn more about fields of interest. A budding scientist would probably love a Saturday trip to a science museum.
- **Encourage your child** to ask people questions about their jobs: "Why did you choose this career?" "Did you always know what you wanted to be?" "What did you do to prepare for this career?" "Would you do anything differently if you had it to do over again?"
- **Ask your child** to keep a career notebook. One section could begin "I love to" or "I am really happy when I can." Another could begin "I don't like to" or "I don't think I could ever." It sounds simple, but it's a great way for your child to narrow the wide field of career choices.
- **Get to know your child's teachers** and counselors. Talk with others who can help your child with study skills, enrichment and career development.
- **Talk with your child** about your own job experiences. See if you can arrange job-shadowing at your work. Or have her shadow a friend or relative.
- **Talk with the school counselor** about assessments your child can take to show his strengths, interests and possible career areas.
- **Encourage volunteer work** and internships. They are a great way to build skills and to try out possible careers.
- **Research educational options** after high school. Check into all choices—like technical/vocational schools and two- and four-year colleges. What types of careers can your child have with each choice?
- **Check out helpful resources.** Help your child learn the educational requirements, skills and salaries of jobs that interest her.
- **List everyday living expenses**, such as rent, food and clothes. Compare this amount to the average salary of jobs that interest your child.

