

# Supporting Common Core State Standards

## Put your child on the path to college

Many parents hope their children will go to college, but they aren't sure how to turn that dream into a reality. The truth is, you don't have to have gone to college yourself to support your child and build his college readiness. Here are simple things you can do to put your child on the path to higher education:

### Talk about college

It's never too early to begin talking to your child about higher education. Talk about what you appreciate about your education—or why you wish you had learned more. Make it clear that you expect her to go to college and tell her you will work together to create a plan to get her there.

### Promote challenging classes

The classes your child takes, starting in middle school, have a big impact on his readiness for college. Encourage your child to take challenging classes, such as algebra and geometry as early as he can. He should also try to take three to four years of a foreign language. In high school, consider Advanced Placement courses. These rigorous college-level courses allow students to earn college credits while still in high school.



### Meet the counselor

Your child's high school guidance counselor can provide important information about college entrance exams, applications, financial aid, scholarships and more. Remind your child to take advantage of this valuable resource.

### Instill a work ethic

It's important to let your child know the value you place on effort and hard work. Many students think that intelligence is what determines their success in school. But studies show that effort is what leads to real learning. When your child shows you a test score with a high grade, instead of saying, "You're so smart," say, "I know how hard you studied. I'm glad your hard work paid off."

### Suggest extracurricular activities

Encourage your child to get involved in activities inside and outside of school. Extracurricular activities such as academic clubs, sports and volunteer work, help your child build important college-readiness skills. Universities are looking for well-rounded students, so suggest that your child keep a journal with a detailed list of her activities and accomplishments.

### Visit colleges

The best way to get a child of any age excited about going to college is to visit one. And it doesn't have to be one he is considering attending. Just walking around a campus can help your child envision himself as a college student. Visit local universities, community colleges and, if possible, plan a trip to one during a family vacation.