

Parents' Guide to Student Success

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the *Parents' Guide to Student Success*?

National PTA® partnered with experts on the [Common Core State Standards](#) to create grade by grade guides that reflect the Common Core State Standards. Individual guides were created for grades K-8 and two were created for grades 9-12 (one for English language arts/literacy and one for mathematics). Eleven (11) guides were created in all.

What is included in the *Parents' Guide*?

The *Guide* includes:

1. Key items that children should be learning in English language arts and mathematics in each grade, once the Standards are fully implemented.
2. Activities that parents can do at home to support their child's learning.
3. Methods (questions and sample topics) for helping parents build stronger relationships with their child's teacher.
4. Tips for planning for college and career (high school only).

What languages is the *Guide* available in?

The *Guide* is available in both English and Spanish.

Who received hard copies of the *Guide*?

State and local PTA Presidents in states that have adopted or provisionally adopted the Standards will receive one set of the guides by February 28, 2011. State and local PTA presidents in states that have not adopted the Standards will not receive hard copies of the *Guide* until the Standards are adopted in their states, however, they can be accessed online in the interim at PTA.org/ParentsGuide.

How can I get copies of the *Guide*?

National PTA produced over 270,000 copies of the *Guide* which were distributed to state and local PTA Presidents in states that have adopted or provisionally adopted the Standards. To access additional copies you may download them at PTA.org/ParentsGuide.

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When will the Standards be adopted in my state?

Currently the Standards have been adopted in over 40 states, but please know that the implementation of the Standards is still in the very early stages. Each state that has adopted or provisionally adopted the Standards is working to develop its own timeline and plan to implement the Standards, which will likely occur over the next few years. To find out if your state has adopted the Standards visit CoreStandards.org/In-The-States.

As a PTA leader, what should I do with the *Guide*?

State and local PTAs are receiving copies of the *Guide* because we want to encourage our PTA leaders to start having conversations with their state departments of education and their school district administrators about how PTA can partner with them on the implementation of the Standards.

The goal is for PTA leaders to collaborate together with the education administrators to develop a strategy to share the *Guide* along with any other pertinent information with all of the parents and caregivers in your community, once the Standards are fully implemented. Ultimately, the aim is that the *Guide* will be a tool for parents to build relationships with their children's teachers once the Standards are fully in place.

Is it time for parents to start talking to teachers about the Standards? What should parents do?

Ultimately, the *Guide* will be a great tool to share with parents so they can more effectively talk to their child's teacher about the Standards. But until the Standards are implemented (which will take one to three years or more depending on the state), the *Guide* will help parents understand what changes are coming and will help PTA leaders partner with education administrators to implement the Standards.

When is the *Parents' Guide* webinar?

National PTA will host a webinar for PTA presidents and other PTA leaders to learn more about the *Guide* and the Common Core State Standards on **Monday, February 28 at 8 p.m. EST. Interested persons can sign up by going to PTA.org/ParentsGuide**. If individuals are not able to attend the webinar during this time, they may view an archived version following the live broadcast.

What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

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Created by teachers, parents, education experts and others from across the country, the Standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career.

Why is PTA supporting the Common Core State Standards?

As the largest volunteer child advocacy organization—with membership of approximately 5 million parents, families, students, and teachers—PTA is uniquely positioned to be an influential, credible, non-partisan voice in the initiative. CCSSI is well aligned with PTA's public policy priority of equity and opportunity for all children.

PTA has been a leader on this work since 2009 when we began work in eight states to support the adoption and implementation of the Standards. Through the release of the *Guide*, PTA is continuing to stay on the forefront of this important work in ensuring that all students have access to a high quality education.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact National PTA at (800) 307-4PTA (4782) or by e-mail at info@pta.org.