

# MAKING THE SHIFT TO THE FLORIDA STANDARDS

There's a renovation going on in our education system — one that will better prepare our children for the future. But teachers and students need time to adjust to the new Florida Standards.

**So what can parents  
and citizens do?**



# TAKE ACTION

## HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD

1

Stay in touch with your child's teacher and ask them about your child's progress.

2

At home, engage your child in lessons recommended by their teacher.

3

Ask your teacher or district if there are courses for parents to learn about the standards.

4

Find practice problems and other resources about the Florida Standards Assessment at [fsassessments.org](http://fsassessments.org).

## ABOUT THE STANDARDS

The Florida Standards were adopted in 2014. They are guidelines for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, and they focus on the critical thinking, problem solving skills and deeper learning that students will need to succeed in college and in the workforce. New standards mean a new way to measure student performance. In 2015, students in Florida started taking a new state-wide standardized test called the Florida Standards Assessment. Turn this flyer over for some frequently asked questions and answers about this shift.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FLORIDA STANDARDS

## **What are the Florida Standards and how do they benefit my child?**

Our world is changing, we don't know what tomorrow's jobs will look like. But we do know that if we prepare children with critical thinking and problem solving skills, they will be better prepared to succeed in the future. That's the idea behind the Florida Standards, adopted in 2014. They are guidelines for what students should know and be able to do in math and English Language Arts at every grade level. These standards were designed by educators to ensure that when students graduate from high school, they are ready for college and the workforce.

## **What's different about the Florida Standards?**

Think for a moment about baking. You know how to follow a recipe for red velvet cake and get a great result. But do you know why you put a certain proportion of baking soda, flour, eggs, and so on? That's what the Florida Standards aim to do — teach a deeper, more applicable set of skills. That way, students will learn how to bake a cake, not just how to memorize recipe after recipe. When we give students the kinds of skills that can be applied in many different arenas, they will grow into adults who can successfully navigate this world.

## **My child doesn't understand their homework, and neither do I. What do I do to help them?**

It's true — math homework looks different than the way we adults learned to add, subtract, multiply and divide. The way teachers are teaching is changing to help students think more deeply instead of just memorizing formulas like we all used to. If you don't understand an assignment, the best thing to do is to communicate with your child's teacher. Ask your child's teacher if there are examples or other resources to help you help your child with homework. Check with your school or district and ask if there are any courses or parent nights being offered to help parents understand the Florida Standards.

## **What do I need to know about the Florida Standards Assessment?**

New standards mean a new state-wide assessment, in the spring of 2015, students took the new Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for the first time. The results of this test will not be released until likely February 2016. Some information was released in fall 2015, but these are not formal results. If your child did not do well on the 2015 test, there will be no direct impact on them (they will not be retroactively retained), and although schools will receive school grades, they will not be sanctioned if they receive a low school grade. To keep up with the latest news, visit [jaxpef.org](http://jaxpef.org) for updates.

## **I'm not a parent of a student in public schools. What do I need to know?**

This shift affects everyone! For our city to reach its full potential, we need to make sure that all children are prepared to reach their full potential. When we all work together to get students ready to become the strong workforce of the future, Jacksonville will become the vibrant city we know it can be. If you don't have kids in school, you can still help! Volunteer at a local school, or just make time to talk to people you know about this shift. Go to [jaxpef.org/get-involved](http://jaxpef.org/get-involved) to see a list of volunteer opportunities and find other ways to move public education forward.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

### **Florida Department of Education**

Visit [www.fsassessments.org](http://www.fsassessments.org) to find out more about the Florida Standards Assessment and see sample problems.

### **CPALMS**

CPALMS is a site designed mostly for educators, but has some examples that might be helpful as you work to help your child with homework. Go to [cpalms.org](http://cpalms.org) to get started.

### **Your Local School District**

Check with your school or district to find out if there are any parent nights or courses being offered to help parents and caregivers better understand the Florida Standards. If you live in Northeast Florida, you can register for a course through Duval County Public Schools' Parent Academy. These sessions are free and you can register online at [duvalschools.org/parentacademy](http://duvalschools.org/parentacademy).