

CURRICULUM STANDARDS AND TESTING

- **Ohio's College- and Career Ready-Standards:** Adopted in 2010 and scheduled for implementation in 2014-2015, Ohio's standards include the Common Core State Standards in English and mathematics and the state revised standards in science and social studies, along with the Pre-K standards in English and math adopted in 2011. They provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. They are bolstered by model curricula developed by educators that provide examples of how to use the standards in the classroom.
- **Next-Generation Assessments:** In conjunction with the new curriculum standards, Ohio is developing a new generation of tests that will build a pathway to college- and career-readiness by the end of high school, mark students' progress toward this goal and provide teachers with timely information to inform instruction and provide student support. The new assessments include those being developed in English and mathematics by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a consortium of 23 states and the District of Columbia. PARCC assessments will be ready by 2014-2015.
- **Early Learning:** Ohio has received a \$70 million Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant to close the school readiness gap between high-needs children and others by expanding access, improving program quality and measuring progress.
- **Ohio Core:** In 2007, the Ohio General Assembly increased the rigor required to earn a diploma. Beginning with the Class of 2014, students must earn 20 credits to graduate, including four each in English and mathematics. One credit must be in Algebra II or its equivalent.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- **Transparent and easy-to-understand district and school reports:** Ohio will be revising the report card system to reflect college and career measures, the new era of testing, expected changes to federal requirements and state laws calling for rankings of schools and districts by Performance Index score.
- **Tracking student success beyond K-12:** A comprehensive statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) will allow Ohio to capture data on the progress of students from early childhood through postsecondary education and beyond. It will measure whether students are on-track to graduate and will demonstrate whether K-12 schools are preparing their students to succeed in college and the workforce.
- **Supporting Ohio's low-performing schools:** Extra help is being given to schools that consistently perform below average, including financial assistance, and advice and training for leaders and staff.
- **Leading innovation:** Ohio is empowering schools to try new approaches that best meet the needs of local communities. This includes grants to help launch innovative learning programs and waivers of state rules that get in the way of change.

HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOL CHOICE

- **Community Schools:** Ohio has more than 300 public nonprofit, nonsectarian schools that operate independently of any school district under contract with an authorized sponsoring entity.
- **STEM and Other Innovative Schools:** Through Race to the Top and other sources, Ohio has a growing system of innovative public schools with special focuses, such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math schools, high schools that allow students to earn two-year college degrees and many others.
- **Career-Technical Education:** High school career-technical education programs prepare students for a broad range of careers that require varying levels of education – high school, apprenticeships, postsecondary certificates, two-year and four-year degrees. Additionally, curriculum is being developed that integrates the Common Core State Standards with rigorous, industry-validated technical content.
- **Early College Options:** Ohio has a variety of options that allow students to earn college credit while still in high school.

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE EDUCATORS

- **Instructional Improvement System:** Under Race to the Top, Ohio will build a powerful online system that will allow teachers to customize curriculum and display student testing data.
- **New System for Evaluating Teachers and Principals:** Ohio is revising the system for evaluating teacher and principal performance. Student performance will be one element of the evaluation.
- **Professional Development for Using College/Career Ready Standards:** Ohio is providing statewide professional development to educators on how to use the standards to enhance instruction.
- **Family and Community Engagement:** The state is providing guidance and resources to help foster family involvement in the education of children and ensure that schools provide healthy, safe environments.