



# A PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE TO College and Career Readiness Standards and Assessments

## What does it take to be *ready* for life after high school?

Think of an athlete who needs to know when to make certain plays, or a musician who needs to be able to read notes, or a builder who needs architectural plans before construction gets underway. Today, students are gaining knowledge to be ready for college and a career. This means he or she will walk into a college classroom, job site, or a training program with the tools to tackle almost anything, from day one.

## What are the tools for success?

Students who have a strong foundation for college and career will, among other things, have proficiency in essential content knowledge, mastered key learning skills, and acquired practical knowledge that will help them transition from high school to college and career. Educators in Oregon described them when they created a definition of College and Career Readiness.

## What are College and Career Readiness Standards?

Oregon has adopted a set of academic standards that focus on the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills students need in today's world. The Oregon State Standards describe the skills and knowledge students need to master at every grade level in English and Mathematics. These standards require an assessment that matches the skills being taught in the classroom. These assessments serve as an academic checkup, helping teachers and parents know how well students are progressing and if they are ready for the next step. The Oregon Statewide Assessment System includes a balanced assessment of summative, interim, and formative practices.

For more information on the Oregon State Standards, visit: [www.oregon.gov/ode](http://www.oregon.gov/ode)





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## ASSESSMENTS

The Oregon Statewide Assessment System is a group of assessments that has brought educators and other experts together to develop high-quality tests aligned to the Oregon State standards. The state's educators develop new assessment items with the goal of providing a deeper level of information for teachers and parents to support student learning. Teachers need to understand how students are working towards mastery of these challenging skills. These assessments help inform teachers' instruction so they can personalize learning and meet the needs of all students.

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## RESOURCES

### Where can I get more information to help my child?

Visit your child's school and talk with your child's teacher or school principal  
Review information on the following websites:

- Achieve the Core  
[www.achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org)
- National Parent Teacher Association  
[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
- Be a Learning Hero  
[www.bealearninghero.org](http://www.bealearninghero.org)
- Council of the Great City Schools  
[www.cgcs.org](http://www.cgcs.org)

