

What does this mean for my children?

The high school graduation rate for Latino students is 56%, compared to 77% for White students.

This means that many Latino students do not graduate from high school and cannot enroll in college. Remember the difference in salaries for college graduates!

The CCSS require that schools prepare all students to graduate from high school. Given the low graduation rate for Latino students, the academic preparation they currently receive is inadequate. Therefore, parents need to carefully track the academic progress of their children. Remember that the new standards are very rigorous, which means that schools will need to change the way they teach to ensure that all students can master the CCSS.

What should I ask the principals of my children's schools?

Parents should ask for the results of the state academic assessments that are administered every year to students in grades three through eight and at least once during high school. If your child is in high school, ask what the graduation rate is for Latino students at that school. Make sure your children are achieving at high levels, and if they are not, talk to teachers and the principal about how they can help your children do better in school.

Parents should also ask principals how the schools are preparing for the new demands of the CCSS, which require highly skilled teachers. Parents should find

out how teachers will become familiar with the new standards and what type of professional development they will receive.

What can I do at home to help my children with the CCSS?

Ask for information on the CCSS for your child's grade. Remember, the standards are different for each grade level, so you will have to ask for this information at the beginning of each school year. Make sure you enroll in any sessions on the CCSS that the school may provide.

Use your knowledge of the CCSS to prepare simple activities at home. For example, third grade students are expected to measure liquids using the liter as a standard measurement, so during dinner you can have your child practice pouring a liter of water or juice. Starting at a very young age, your children will learn the importance of the standards and how they apply to everyday life.

Read with your children in the language that is most comfortable for you. Talk to your children about current events that interest them. These are effective ways of helping your children learn throughout childhood and adolescence.

When you talk to your teens about attending college, stress the importance of mastering the CCSS so they can be ready to succeed after high school.

For more information on the CCSS, please visit NCLR at www.nclr.org.