



## FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WITH SCHOOLS

# What are the New York State Learning Standards?

### Why are there Learning Standards for New York State?

State Learning Standards are a requirement under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law.

The goal of NCLB is to have every student achieving at grade level by 2014.

The key parts of the NCLB law require states to:

- Develop *learning standards* that say what students should know, understand and be able to do at different grade levels.
- Test students using standardized tests that hold schools accountable for student achievement.
- Offer families whose children attend low performing schools Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES).
- Hire highly qualified teachers.
- Show the importance of parental involvement by requiring schools to have and use parental involvement policies and school-parent compacts.

### New York State Learning Standards

There are two types of learning standards.

Content Standards say what students should know, understand, and be able to do.

Performance Standards say what specific tasks students should be able to do at different grade levels. For example, by the end of fourth grade, students should be able to write a short report about a topic from science or social studies, using information from at least two different sources.

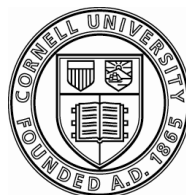
### How will the learning standards affect your child?

New York State wrote the learning standards to help schools plan what they are going to teach.

The state hopes that when students graduate they will have problem-solving skills and be independent thinkers. The goal is for students to be able to use what they know to solve real-life problems and to handle real work situations.

In order to make sure students are meeting the standards, they will be given state standardized tests throughout elementary, middle, and high school.

**You can view the New York State standards at**  
**<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/nysatl/standards.html>**



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## How will you know if your child is meeting the standards?

As part of school accountability and NCLB, schools use standardized tests to measure how well students are meeting the state learning standards. You will receive a report that will explain how your child scored on the state tests, areas your child is strong in, and areas in need of improvement.

However, it is important to remember that one test cannot give you the full picture of what your child can and cannot do. To fully understand how well your child is meeting the standards, it is important to look at many different things including:

- Classroom tests
- Homework
- Writing assignments
- Information from the teacher

## Tips for Helping Your Child Meet the Standards

Being a partner in your child's education by working together with your child and his or her school will help your child be successful.

Parents play a very important role in helping their children do well in school and in meeting state standards. Here are some things you can do:

- **Talk with your child's teacher(s).** This will help you stay up to date on how your child is doing with homework, tests, and socially in the classroom.
- **Show a positive attitude about school.** Make sure your child goes to school regularly and completes all her homework. Ask your child about school and how she thinks she is doing.
- **Talk to your child often.** Talk to him about many different topics. Ask him questions and get his opinion.
- **Encourage good work habits.** Talk to your child about being proud of her work. Teach her to follow directions and check her own work. Give her responsibilities at home.

**Activity ideas from the New York State Education Department can be found at [www.nysparents.com](http://www.nysparents.com).**

### Families and Communities Together with Schools Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)

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