

Curriculum & Instruction Update

Fairfield City School District

Ohio Institutes New Graduation Requirements

Beginning with the Class of 2018

House Bill 487 updated Ohio's graduation requirements to ensure that all students are ready for success in college and work. As a result, the Class of 2017 (10th graders in the 2014-2015 school year) will be the last students to take the current Ohio Graduation Tests. The new requirements take effect with students entering ninth grade in the 2014-2015 school year (Class of 2018). Additionally, every student in the Class of 2018 and beyond will have the opportunity to take a nationally-recognized college admission exam free of charge as juniors. The honors diploma remains another option for students.

What are the teachers and administrators of FCSD doing to prepare students for these new, more rigorous requirements? Ensuring that our students are prepared! They are...

- Teaching Ohio's New Learning Standards in all high school classrooms
- Helping students work at higher levels of cognitive rigor on a regular basis in all classrooms
- Incorporating tech tools as often as possible throughout students' educational experiences

- Creating a more differentiated learning experience so that all students can experience success

FCSD can continue to be proud of our students and our staff. Our children will continue to receive a high quality education preparing them for whatever their futures may hold.



Explorer, Chrome and Firefox...Oh My!

Webster's defines browser as "a computer program that is used to find and look at information on the Internet." If only it were that simple! There are

numerous tools we use to browse the internet every day. Explorer, Chrome and Firefox (PC users) are the most popular. We all have our favorite. Web developers

have their favorite, too. This will sometimes result in 'compatibility issues' with certain sites and certain browsers. Whenever you go to a website and things do not seem quite right, try visiting that site with one of



November 2014
Volume 2, Issue 3

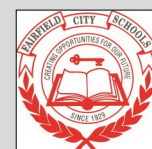
Reminders

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The Common Core ELA Key Shift #5: Writing from Sources

Writing now needs to **emphasize use of evidence to inform or make an argument** rather than only the personal narrative and other forms of decontextualized prompts. While the narrative still has an important role, students develop skills through **written arguments** that **respond to the ideas, events, facts, and arguments** presented in the texts they read.

What can you do in your classroom to emphasize the use of evidence to inform or make an argument?

- When giving assignments, students should use evidence from texts to present careful analyses, well-defended claims, and clear information.
- Using sticky notes or highlighters will help students be able to cite textual evidence that may later be used in writing.
- Have students write as they read, recording reactions, personal thoughts, and questions.

Would you like more resources on Shift #5, Writing from Sources?

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/common-core-in-ela-literacy-shift-5-writing-from-sources>

<http://achievethecore.org/search?q=writing+to+source>

<http://www.hamilton.edu/writing/writing-resources/using-sources>

What's in Your Instructional Toolbox?

Standards for Mathematical Practice cover skills students should demonstrate at appropriate levels for grades K-12. Standard 5 states that students need to “use appropriate tools strategically.” Teachers need to model using appropriate tools and make them available so students become comfortable using them.

Examples include:

- Make sound decisions about the use of specific tools. Examples might include:
 - * Calculator
 - * Concrete models
 - * Digital Technology
 - * Pencil, paper
 - * Ruler, compass, protractor
- Use technological tools to visualize the results of assumptions, explore consequences and compare predications with data
- Identify relevant external math resources (digital content on a website) and use them to pose or solve problems
- Use technological tools to explore and deepen understanding of concepts

For more information, including videos, visit:

<http://www.insidemathematics.org/common-core-resources/mathematical-practice-standards/standard-5-use-appropriate-tools-strategically>