

# Common Core & Essential Standards Parent and Community Overview

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools



# Background Information

- For the past 25 years, our curriculum has been The North Carolina Standard Course of Study
- Beginning 2012 – 2013, our curriculum will be Common Core in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics and Essential Standards for all other subject areas



# Why Common Core?

- To provide a more rigorous curriculum
  - Fewer goals and objectives in English/Language Arts
- To provide a deeper understanding of content
  - Students will be expected to apply and use knowledge acquired
- To standardize curriculum across the country



# What Brought About This Change?

- A desire to improve public education nationwide
- A commitment to prepare students for life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



# What Makes Common Core Different?

- More emphasis on **use** of knowledge
- **Less** worksheets and **more** doing
- **All** courses are impacted



# What Makes Common Core Different?

- **Greater** emphasis on real-world application
- More **open-ended questions**
- **Problem solving** that requires students to evaluate and determine best answers/solutions



# How Are Teachers Being Prepared?

- Ongoing training in their subject area(s)
- Summer training for all new teachers
- New Curriculum Guides containing strategies on delivery of new curriculum



# Will Student Testing Change?

- Students will continue to be tested annually
- All courses will have an end-of-grade or end-of-course
  - This includes courses that have not been tested in the past such as the arts, health, second grade
- More electronic tests



# Will Student Testing Change?

- Test format will include multiple-choice, short answer, and performance task

Demo of New Assessments

<http://go.ncsu.edu/nctdemo>



# Where May Parents Find Help?

- Attend PTA meetings
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Contact your school principal
- Use online resources when possible



# Available Online Resources

- National PTA website: <http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>
- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction – “READY”  
<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/ready>
- US Department of Education  
<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/07/secretary-duncan-on-common-core-standards-and-the-next-generation-of-assessments>



# Available Online Resources

- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/k-12-education/common-core-state-standards-tools-resources/>
- PARCC -- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for Colleges and Careers  
<http://parconline.org/common-core-pre-requisite-postsecondary-education-training>



Thank you!

