

Dear Parents,



Recently, more than 40 states in the Unites States have developed and adopted a common set of academic standards in mathematics. These standards, called the **Common Core State Standards** were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and mathematics and education experts under the auspices of the bipartisan National Governors' Association and the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

These standards will serve as important benchmarks to ensure that all students are receiving high quality education and are well prepared for success in post-secondary education and the workforce. Students will be assessed on a regular basis throughout their school career to monitor their progress towards meeting these benchmarks.

As individual states have adopted these new standards, they have committed to a shared grade-by-grade sequence of topics to be taught. For many states, this requires a shift in the instructional materials used, to match both the content skills and the mathematical understandings contained in the Common Core State Standards.

Your child's school is using *enVisionMATH*<sup>®</sup> Common Core edition ©2012 as their math program. This program was specially developed to provide comprehensive coverage of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Take a look through your child's math online textbook and you'll notice that each lesson specifically targets one or more of the content standards (shown just below the lesson number).

You'll also notice that many of the exercises in the lessons have a red logo next to them. These exercises highlight opportunities for your child to develop particular mathematical skills and habits of mind that are part of the Common Core State Standards. Called Standards for Mathematical Practices, these standards describe practices and abilities of very good math thinkers. You can help your child develop these abilities by encouraging them to think about the questions found below this letter.

Pearson is committed to providing quality instructional materials that can help all students achieve mastery of the Common Core State Standards and be well prepared for success after high school. We hope that your child has a successful and rewarding year in the study of mathematics!

# A Parent's Guide to the Standards for Mathematical Practice

As your child works through homework exercises, you can help him/her develop and apply the eight Mathematical Practices by asking some of these questions:

## I. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

- · What problem are you asked to solve?
- Have you solved similar problems?
- What is your plan for solving the problem?
- · Did you use a different method to check your answer?

## 2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

- · Can you think of a number sentence (equation) to match the story (situation)?
- What do the numbers in the number sentence mean?
- · How are the facts in the problem related to one another?

## 3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

- What does your answer mean?
- · How can you be sure that your answer is correct?

#### 4. Model with mathematics.

- · What number sentence (equation) describes this problem?
- What numbers will you use to solve the problem?
- How are the numbers in the problem connected?
- Is your answer reasonable?
- What does your solution represent?

#### 5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

- What tools can help you solve this problem?
- Which tool is the most useful for this problem? Why is that your choice?
- Did you begin by estimating the solution?

#### 6. Attend to precision.

- · What do the symbols that you used mean?
- · What units of measure are you using?
- Explain what [term from the lesson] means.

## 7. Look for and make use of structure.

· What do you notice about the solutions you've just completed?

# 8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

· Are there shortcuts for solving similar problems?