



ELA Think Tank / Leadership

Happy October! It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month. You can save a woman's life either by scheduling your own or encouraging the women in your life to schedule a mammogram today.

News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

In order to implement the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) with fidelity and transform teaching and learning as the standards intend, we believe educators at all levels must gain a deep understanding of the intentional design principles used to develop the standards. Therefore, the Office of Standards and Instructional Support's goal is to provide tools and resources to support instructional leaders in conducting a series of Professional Learning Modules that can be easily delivered within a school.

The focus of these Modules is to assist educators in developing standards literacy by applying their literacy through curriculum and resource alignment to the standards and incorporating **disciplinary literacy** strategies in the classroom.

2020 CAS Implementation Plan

The 2020 CAS Implementation Professional Learning Modules are organized in three phases of transition over a two-year period:

1. **Transition Phase 1 (Fall 2018)** includes topics of "Disciplinary Literacy and Standards Readiness."
2. **Transition Phase 2 (Spring 2019)** includes topics of "Curriculum and Resource Alignment."
3. **Transition Phase 3 (Fall 2019)** incorporates mapping instructional strategies in the standards for best, first instruction.

Educators in all content areas will demonstrate their standards literacy by engaging in a total of 14 Professional Learning Modules over the course of two years.

The Modules are designed to:

- Deepen understanding of all elements of the revised 2020 Colorado Academic Standards;
- Demonstrate how to conduct curriculum and resources alignment and gap analysis; and,
- Indicate how to map instructional strategies to the innovations within the standards for *Best First Instruction* in order to ensure that every Colorado student has an opportunity to be college and career ready.

Disciplinary Literacy

Disciplinary literacy is a fundamental element found in all content of the revised 2020 CAS. As such, understanding disciplinary literacy is critical to being *standards literate*.

1. What is disciplinary literacy?

Disciplinary literacy is the intersection of content knowledge, experiences, and skills necessary to demonstrate understanding through the ability to read, write, communicate, and think critically using approaches unique to a specific discipline.

Tim Shanahan and Cynthia Shanahan, in their article "[What Is Disciplinary Literacy and Why Does It Matter](#)," contend that *disciplinary literacy* emphasizes the knowledge and abilities possessed by those who create, communicate, and use knowledge within the disciplines. It honors the thinking within disciplines of study and invites students to engage in the academic discipline while developing a voice as a member of that community.

NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes

CLAS: Regional Fall Conference in Denver, Colorado at the Tivoli Union, Auraria Campus October 6th.

NCTE: Annual Convention in Houston, Texas November 15th-18th

Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me at gillespie_o@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6583. I would love to have feedback on the monthly e-update or hear suggestions for topics you would like to have addressed.