

COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS

A Roadmap to Student Success



COLORADO
Department of Education

www.cde.state.co.us

What are standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful at each grade level.

The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in 10 content areas:

- comprehensive health and physical education
- dance
- drama and theatre arts
- math
- music
- reading, writing and communicating
- science
- social studies
- visual arts
- world languages

The Colorado Academic Standards include voluntary Computer Science standards at the high school level.

The standards emphasize critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration and communication as essential skills for post-secondary and workforce readiness.

Bringing the standards to life

While the standards provide shared expectations for students across Colorado, they allow for local flexibility in how to reach and exceed those standards.

Through district- and teacher-created curriculum and lesson plans, teachers bring the standards to life, inspiring students to reach their full potential.



Examples from the standards

2ND GRADE SCIENCE
Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

4TH GRADE VISUAL ARTS
Analyze through collaborative discussion how personal works of art can be refined to effectively communicate.

8TH GRADE MATH
Analyze and solve pairs of simultaneous linear equations

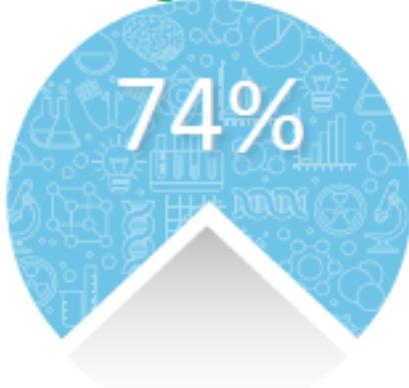
10TH GRADE READING, WRITING AND COMMUNICATING
Relate a literary work to original historical documents of its literary period or historical setting

Why update our standards?

Standards are not new to Colorado. Standards have guided our schools and districts since 1993. In 2008, Colorado adopted Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids, a legislative act that called for the adoption of updated standards aimed at ensuring all students are prepared to succeed in college, careers and life. The standards provide the foundation for teachers to help all students achieve at higher levels and improve the college and career readiness of our students.



The Need for Rigorous Standards



In 2025, 74% of all jobs in Colorado
3 MILLION JOBS
WILL REQUIRE
EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

**HUNDREDS OF COLORADANS ENGAGED IN A MULTI-YEAR
PROCESS TO UPDATE THE STANDARDS.**

*The 2020-21 school year *will be the first year the revised
standards will be implemented in our schools.*

**Science standards will be implemented in the 2021-22 school year*

What teachers are saying

"I want the same thing as my students' parents want—for every single child to achieve the greatest amount of success possible. And the new, higher standards help me focus on teaching important skills like critical thinking, analysis and problem solving to create a generation of thinkers who will be successful not only grade-to-grade, but in whatever they ultimately decide to do after graduation."

- Lauren Fine, McGlone Elementary, Denver Public Schools, 5th Grade Literacy Teacher & Coach

"The new standards require a more complex interaction with the material. For instance, we can't just ask students to identify the traits of the main character of a story but instead, must ask how those traits lead to multiple or conflicting motivations and how this in turn develops the theme."

- Jonathan Wright, Boulder High School, Language Arts Teacher

What is different about these standards?

Across all 10 content areas, the standards demand more of our students and teachers.

RIGOR

Students use inquiry, critical thinking and creative processes to solve problems

RELEVANCY

Students engage in real world scenarios that require the application and transfer of knowledge and skills

DISCIPLINARY LITERACY

Students learn to speak, think, work and argue like mathematicians, artists, scientists, authors and historians

"The Colorado Academic Standards present a shift in thinking about social studies education. The new focus on 21st century skills as well as relevance and application requires adjustments to methods and strategies used in the classroom."

- Jill Martinez, Del Norte Middle School, Social Studies Teacher

How will we know if our students are meeting the standards?

Rigorous academic standards go hand in hand with meaningful and relevant tests. The state's tests, called the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS), measure students' mastery of the standards and the complex thinking and other critical skills students need to be successful in school and in life. These tests will be revised to include the revision within the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards.

Why are tests important?

Parents should know whether their children are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in today's complex world. CMAS is the only common measurement for Colorado students, helping teachers and parents understand whether students have mastered the content they need to know by the end of each school year in order to be on track for college and career success. Parents can also use CMAS scores to see how their students and schools are doing compared to other students and schools across the district and the state.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Colorado Department of Education on www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents

Colorado Academic Standards
www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction

Colorado Measure of Academic Success
www.cde.state.co.us/assessment

What tests will students take?

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	Grades 3 through 8
	MATH	Grades 3 through 8
	SOCIAL STUDIES	Grades 4 and 7 (sampling approximately 1/3 of schools participating)
	SCIENCE	Grades 5, 8 and 11
	PSAT	Grade 9 and 10
	SAT	Grade 11



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