



ELA Think Tank / Leadership

With the new school year in full swing, I want to first introduce myself. My name is Olivia Gillespie. I am the new Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Specialist in the Office of Standards and Instructional Support.

I want to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for the work you do every day on behalf of Colorado students. I can't capture all of the innovative ways in which you make a difference both inside and outside the classroom; however, on behalf of the CDE, THANK YOU!

News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

Senate Bill 08-212, Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K), has a provision that requires the regular review and revision of the Colorado Academic Standards. The first review and revision cycle concluded in June 2018 with the Colorado State Board of Education approving 8 sets of standards across 16 content areas.

Upon approval, the Office of Standards and Instructional Support developed the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards Implementation Plan. Our goal is to guide and provide educators with tools and resources to support instructional leaders in conducting a series of educational experiences that can be easily delivered within a school. The focus of these experiences is to assist educators in their usage of the entire standards document to support improved planning for instruction.

2020 CAS Implementation Plan

The purpose of the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards Implementation Plan is to engage teachers and school/district leaders in a two-year deep study and implementation of the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards. The Office of Standards and Instructional Support recognizes the importance of standards education. We believe that getting the standards right relies on the participation of all those with a stake in the quality of education Colorado students receive.

As we embark upon this two-year implementation process, the Office of Standards and Instructional Support understands the importance of building educator capacity and literacy in the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards.

What is our plan for building educator capacity and literacy in the 2020 Colorado Academic Standards (CAS)?

- Updated CAS website
- Online professional learning modules
- Regional standards implementation professional development
- Sessions at state conferences sharing key elements of 2020 standards

Standards Literacy

Ask yourself: "What does it mean to be literate in the Colorado Academic Standards?"

A *standards literate educator*:

- Possesses a working knowledge of the terms, categories, and meaning of the elements of the standards;
- Effectively applies standards to develop or revise curriculum; and,
- Demonstrates best, first instruction through high impact strategies inherent within curriculum aligned to the standards.

Essentially, he or she understands how each element in the Colorado Academic Standards is interwoven to provide a roadmap that ensures every student has an opportunity to be successful in college, a career, and life.

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.