Common Core Standards

- State-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)
- Developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts
- Provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are to learn.
- Consistency in standards provides appropriate benchmarks for all students regardless of where they live
- The standards are aligned with college and work expectations; clear, understandable and consistent, they include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high order skills; and are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society are evidence-based.

Key Points in English Language Arts and Literacy

- An integrated literacy model weaving together reading, writing, speaking and listening, language, research, media, and technology across all disciplines and content areas.
- Reading:
  - “Staircase” of increasing complexity in what student must be able to read
  - Progressive development of reading comprehension
  - Classic and contemporary literary as well as challenging information texts
  - No reading lists
- Writing:
  - Focus on the ability to write logical arguments
  - Research is emphasized throughout the standards
  - Annotated samples of student writing accompany the standards
- Speaking and Listening:
  - Require that students gain, evaluate, and present increasingly complex information, ideas, and evidence
  - Focus in academic discussion
- Language:
  - Grow vocabulary through a mix of conversations, direct instruction, and reading
  - Prepare students for real life experience at college and in 21st century careers
  - Vocabulary and conventions treated in their own strand because their use extends across reading, writing, speaking and listening

Research, Media, and Technology:
- Skills related to research, media, and technology use are integrated throughout the standards

Key Points in Mathematics

- Solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals
- Build the foundation to successfully apply more demanding math concepts and procedures and move into application
- In Kindergarten, the standards follow successful international models and recommendations from the National Research Council’s Early Math Panel report
- K-5 standards provide detailed guidance on how to navigate their way through topics, and maintain a continuous progression from grade to grade
- Procedural skills and conceptual understanding is stressed
- Hands on learning in geometry, algebra and probability and statistics
- Middle school standards are robust
- High school standards call for the practice of applying mathematical ways of thinking to real world issues and challenges; emphasizing modeling and the use of mathematics and statistics to analyze empirical situations.

Standards and Supporting Materials


Contacts

- Jeannette Nobo, Assistant Director  
  jnobo@ksde.org  
  785-296-2078
- Don Gifford, History-Government Program Consultant  
  dgifford@ksde.org  
  785.296.3892
- Kris Shaw, Literacy Program Consultant  
  kshaw@ksde.org  
  785.296.4926
- Melissa Fast, Math/Assessment Program Consultant  
  mfast@ksde.org  
  785.296.3486
- David Barnes, Math/Science Program Consultant  
  dbarnes@ksde.org  
  785.296.2091
- Matt Krehbiel, Science/Math Program Consultant  
  mkrehbiel@ksde.org  
  785.296.8108

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