

SUPPORTING all Students

Introduction to the Colorado Academic Standards

Design Principles and Instructional Shifts

Focus

The Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) emphasize what students need to be postsecondary and workforce ready.

- Articulated grade level expectations express the concepts and skills every student should master at each grade level
- 21st century information literacy, collaboration, critical thinking, self-direction, and invention skills are evident throughout the standards

Coherence

The CAS establish vertical and horizontal connections.

- Grade level expectations build vertically toward the achievement of the prepared graduate competencies for each content area
- Interdisciplinary relationships in the standards connect content areas (horizontally) across grade levels

Rigor

The CAS are written for mastery.

- Fluency, application and transfer comprise Colorado's definition of mastery
- Requirements for deeper student understanding are the foundation of the standards

All Students, All Standards

The CAS reflect the importance of teaching the whole child.

- The CAS include standards for 10 content areas (Comprehensive Health and Physical Education; Dance; Drama and Theatre Arts; Mathematics; Music; Reading, Writing, and Communicating; Science; Social Studies; Visual Arts; World Languages)
- Literacy skills, the basis of academic success for all students, are a prominent focus within the standards

Background

- **2008** Colorado Legislature passes SB 212 requiring revision of standards and alignment of the P-12 educational system. The Bill mandates each local education agency "adopts standards, at a minimum, in those subject areas that are included in the state preschool through elementary and secondary education standards, including but not limited to English Language Competency and Visual and Performing Arts."
- **2009** Colorado State Board of Education adopts standards in 10 content areas and for English Language Proficiency.
- **2010 (August)** Colorado State Board of Education adopts the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics and Reading, Writing, and Communicating (RWC).
- **2010 (December)** CDE releases the Colorado Academic Standards for Mathematics and RWC incorporating the CCSS.

Where can I learn more?

The Office of Standards and Instructional Support website (www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction) provides a variety of resources for those wishing to learn more about the Colorado Academic Standards.

For any additional questions, contact Brian Sevier at Sevier_B@cde.state.co.us

The Colorado Department of Education

CONNECTING . . . rigorous academic standards . . . meaningful assessments . . .
engaging learning options . . . excellent educators . . . for **STUDENT SUCCESS**

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