About

The Office of Standards and Instructional Support (SIS) consists of full-time and part-time staff of content specialists with expertise in all areas within the Colorado Academic Standards. This team is committed to supporting education professionals across the state in implementing the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) for student success. The team provides guidance and expertise through technical assistance, both internally and externally, related to standards implementation and instructional support.

Standards vs. Curriculum, What's the Difference?

Standards are broad learning goals articulating what students should know, understand, and be able to do over a given time.

A curriculum is an organized plan of instruction, comprised of a sequence of instructional units, that engages students in mastering the standards. Resources such as instructional materials and textbooks support curriculum.

In Colorado, standards are developed by Colorado teachers and go through a public feedback process before being approved by the State Board of Education. Curriculum decisions are left to local school districts.

For further explanation, review this Standards vs. Curriculum fact sheet (PDF).

Standards Quick Links

- Subscribe to the SIS Newsletter
- Interact with the Standards Online

Standards Review and Revision Process
The State Board of Education is required by state statute to revise approximately one-third of the standards beginning in 2022 and an additional one-third every two years thereafter. Through this updated process, the standards have been divided into three groups. Groups contain content areas that are each reviewed by a committee of education stakeholders and the public before recommended revisions are considered by the state board. One-third of the standards that were adopted in 2018 began the review and revision cycle beginning in fall of 2020.

Learn more about Standards Review and Revision

News and Announcements

Colorado Academic Standards for the Arts
Revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards for the arts were approved by the State Board of Education in April 2022, and documents are being made available for download. Updates to Standards Online, our tool for easy navigation of the standards in your browser, are also coming soon.

Colorado Academic Standards for Social Studies
Presentations of the final recommendations for revisions to Colorado’s social studies standards are scheduled to continue at meetings of the State Board of Education throughout this fall. The extended time for the approval of the standards provides board members and the public adequate time to review proposed changes prior to the presentation from the social studies committee. All meeting materials are available on the standards revision webpage.

The Holocaust and Genocide Studies Resource Bank
The Holocaust and Genocide Resource Bank is now available. This resource bank is the work of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Committee. The committee used a vetting tool to determine the quality, usability, and alignment with the Holocaust and Genocide standards for the selection of collection resources.

Content Areas

- Arts
- Mathematics
- Comprehensive Health
- Physical Education
## Colorado Academic Standards

- Colorado Academic Standards Online
- Colorado Academic Standards Downloads
- Extended Evidence Outcomes
- Colorado Essential Skills
- Fact Sheet and FAQs
- History and Development

## Standards Support

- Implementation Modules
- Implementation Timeline Extended for Science
- District Sample Curriculum Project
- Family and Community Guides to the Standards
- Standards Communications Tools
### Instructional Support

- Framework for Best, First Instruction
- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Teaching in Diverse Instructional Settings
- PLC Bytes and Webinars

### Newsletters, Podcasts, and Webinars

- Standards and Instructional Support Newsletter
- Setting the Standard Podcast
- Setting the Standard Webinar Series
- Institutions of Higher Education Toolkit

### Legislated Grants, Committees and Commissions

- Computer Science Grant Programs
- High-Impact Tutoring Grant Program
- Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Colorado Public Schools
- History, Culture, Social Contributions, and Civil Government in Education
- Implementing Media Literacy in Elementary and Secondary Education
- Teaching About the 2020 Census
Connections Across CDE

- Accountability and Support
- Assessment
- Career and Technical Education
- Educator Effectiveness
- English Language Proficiency Standards
- Environmental Education Resources
- STEM

Resources in Response to COVID-19

The Office of Standards and Instructional Support has contributed to resources that support educators during these unprecedented times. The following are the most requested areas to find answers to frequently asked questions. In addition, a frequent question our office receives is in regard to priority standards. Our office implements legislation and current legislation does not prioritize specific grade-level expectations in any content area. Therefore, we operate to assist districts in implementing standards that are adopted by the State Board of Education in all content areas. Curricular decisions are made at the local level.

NEW! (August 2021) How should schools use COVID relief funds to make long-term investments in curriculum and instruction? This short guide has recommendations about investing in personnel, using evidence to select high-quality curriculum materials, implementing strong PD programs, and more.

COVID Relief Spending Guidance

Best Practices for Educators

Remote Learning Resources

CDE Hybrid Learning Guide

Preschool-3rd Grade Guidance
Financial Transparency

Financial information on schools and districts throughout Colorado. Learn more about financial transparency.

QUICK LINKS

- Colorado.gov
- Offices
- Our Staff
- News Releases
- Site Index
- FAQs
- COOL: Online Licensing
- Human Resources
- Jobs at CDE
- Jobs for Teachers
- Moodle LMS
- Professional Development
- SchoolView
- State Board
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