



Arizona's Common Core Standards

General Overview of Arizona's Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics

The workplace is far different today than it was even ten years ago. Unlike past generations, teachers today must prepare students for a world of possibilities that may not currently exist. The workforce of tomorrow must be flexible, motivated, and be able to draw from a deep and vast skill set. The ability to effectively communicate, collaborate, and adapt to situations will be critical to ensuring competition in a global market. By setting high expectations with a commitment to succeed with all students, we are positioning our future workforce to be internationally competitive. In June of 2010, the Arizona State Board adopted Arizona's Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Arizona's Common Core Standards - English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics:

- Were developed by standards experts and educators
- Are research and evidence-based
- Are supported by rigorous international benchmarks
- Have received multiple rounds of feedback from states and national organizations representing educators (e.g., International Reading Association (IRA), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE))

Arizona's Involvement:

- Arizona was **actively engaged** in the development of the Common Core standards in both English language arts and mathematics, in partnership with a significant number of states across the country.
- Arizona **continues to be actively** engaged in providing input and feedback to the development of shared resources, guidance documents and support systems across multiple states.
- The standards were **created by states**, with the professional input of practitioners, content experts, teachers, researchers, higher education and business leaders.
- The standards have been **aligned with international benchmarks** to help prepare our students to compete within a global economy.

The ADE Critical Message about Arizona's Common Core Standards

- The purpose of the new standards is to provide a **consistent set** of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics **expectations** that prepare **all students** for college and career options.
- The standards are designed to ensure that our students remain **competitive** in the global market of the 21st century.
- Arizona's Common Core Standards include the Common Core State Standards **plus** Arizona additions. Arizona's adoption of the Common Core State Standards ensures a more seamless education for high mobility students since grade level standards and expectations are consistent across 46 participating states.
- The creation of the common core standards was a **state-led effort** coordinated by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

Basic Foundations of Arizona's Common Core Standards in ELA and Mathematics Include:

- A sound, rigorous preparation for college and career
- A reflection of the best of standards work across the 46 participating states
- Solid evidence of skills that are required to be college and career ready
- Depth of knowledge, conceptual understanding, critical thinking, and problem solving
- Local flexibility



General Overview of Arizona's Common Core Standards - English Language Arts and Mathematics

Facts and Questions

What do Arizona's Common Core Standards mean for students?

Arizona's Common Core Standards - English Language Arts and Mathematics help to prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in post-secondary education and training.

- **Clear standards** help students understand what is expected of them.
- **Consistent expectations** across states for *all* students ensure that Arizona students are both nationally and internationally competitive.
- **Relevant content** and application of knowledge through high-order thinking skills and questioning provide opportunities for students to prepare for workforce and higher education discussions and experiences.

What do Arizona's Common Core Standards mean for Arizona teachers and administrators?

- **Clear standards** help both teachers and administrators understand expectations.
- The standards provide **strategic grade level goals** to prepare students for success in college and in the workforce.
- The standards **focus on results** with a clear end in mind (College- and Career- Success) that begins in Kindergarten and builds to college- and career- readiness expectations.
- The standards help teachers develop and **implement effective strategies** for their students by providing benchmarks for skills and knowledge that students should master by the end of the year.
- The standards provide a foundation for **working collaboratively** across content disciplines, schools, districts, and even states – pooling resources and expertise, to create curricular tools, professional development, common assessments and other materials.

What do Arizona's Common Core Standards mean for Arizona families?

- Clear, focused standards are **consistent** across the states.
- There is a strong emphasis on **real-world application** of knowledge and skills within the standards.
- The standards' college and career ready goal is designed to **prepare all students for success** with post-secondary educational and career opportunities.

When will Arizona's Common Core Standards in ELA and Mathematics be assessed?

The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) Summative Assessment System reflecting Arizona's Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics will be implemented during the **2014-2015** school year.

It is important to understand that:

- Implementing Arizona's Common Core Standards – English Language Arts at all grade levels is robust preparation for both the remaining AIMS reading and writing assessments and for Arizona's new assessment system in 2015.
- Implementing Arizona's Common Core Standards - Mathematics will require strategic planning to ensure that students have the required grade level content for the remaining AIMS math assessment while preparing for the PARCC Summative Assessment in 2015.

How can I learn more about Arizona's Common Core Standards?

Visit **Arizona's Common Core Standards** website at: <http://www.azed.gov/azcommoncore/>

The ADE website is evolving to include the most up-to-date and relevant resources available to teachers, administrators, students, and to families and communities. On the website, you can find links to both national resources and to resources developed specifically for Arizona. You will also find links to videos, parent resources from the National PTA, transition and implementation resources, and lesson/curriculum planning tools. As new information becomes available, the Arizona Department of Education website will be updated to keep Arizona's educational community abreast of all important news as it relates to Arizona's Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics and the PARCC Assessments.