
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: WHAT DOES COMMON CORE MEAN FOR PARENTS?

WHAT ARE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS?

Standards help teachers ensure their students have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful by providing clear goals for student learning.

WHAT ARE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS)?

The Common Core State Standards are part of a movement in New Mexico and in most other states to ensure that *all students*, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and at work. Standards have been developed for grades K-12 in English and math. Common standards mean that students receive a high quality education at every school, in every community in the state.

HOW ARE CCSS DIFFERENT FROM OUR OLD SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION?

The Common Core focuses on giving students deep understanding of the most important concepts in the subjects they are studying so that they can *apply* those knowledge and skills to other subjects and in the real world. All students, starting from the earliest grades, will be learning advanced skills in core subjects like English and Math needed to earn high school and college degrees.

WHAT IS THE TIMEFRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARDS?

By 2015, all students will be taking new forms of tests that require them to show that they have the ability to read, write, speak, solve problems, and use technology. These tests will examine many kinds of student work, not just multiple-choice answers. New Mexico will be teaching the Common Core State Standards to students in grades K-3 beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, and to students in grades 4-12 in 2013-2014.

WHY ARE RIGOROUS STANDARDS IMPORTANT?

Too many New Mexico students are underprepared for life after graduation. To fix that problem we need to set clear expectations and high standards for teachers, parents, and students that everyone can work on together. Common Core establishes what *all students* must know and be able to do to graduate from high school ready for college or a career.