



Frequently Asked Questions about the New State Standards

What are the new state standards?

North Carolina adopted the new Common Core State Standards for K-12 Mathematics and English Language Arts in June 2010, for implementation in fall 2012. The new standards – along with Essential Standards for additional subject areas – will provide stronger, clearer and more consistent goals for what students should learn and master in order to be ready for college, career and life.

What is the new READY Accountability Model?

Accountability at the student and school level is important to educators, parents and the business community. By having objective and standard measures of growth and performance, everyone can see how well individual schools are performing. The new Accountability Model – part of the READY Initiative - will provide more useful information for educators and parents regarding the progress of their school, the educational needs of individual students, and ultimately, higher graduation and college attendance rates. <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/ready/>

What curriculum will be tested beginning 2012-13?

Beginning 2012-13, the assessments were aligned to the Common Core and the NC Essential Standards, which are the new NC Standard Course of Study. Students will be taught and assessed on the same set of standards.

What is the Common Core?

The Common Core are instructional standards that provide stronger, clearer and more consistent goals for what students should learn and master in order to be ready for college, career and life.

What are the Common Core Standards for Literacy?

The new standards for English Language Arts demonstrate an integrated model of literacy. The communication skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening and language blended throughout the standards with a balance of informational and literary text. Students will read a broad range of increasingly complex texts over time. The texts will include informational, argumentative and narrative writing that requires students to use evidence from texts. The literacy standards for history/social studies, science and technical subjects support a shared responsibility for students' literacy development.

What are the Common Core Standards for Math?

The new standards for Math focus heavily on arithmetic in grades K-5. Arithmetic as a rehearsal for algebra places emphasis on how the number system works, the application of properties in computation and understanding of fractions. Middle schools move into algebra readiness with building number theory and the study of proportional reasoning. In high school, modeling permeates all themes: algebra, numbers, geometry, functions and statistics and probability.

What are the Essential Standards?

Essential Standards are instructional standards for all other subjects including social studies, science, information and technology, world languages, health and physical education, arts education, career technical education and guidance.

How will school performance and growth be reported for elementary and middle schools?

End of Grade Assessments:

- % of students proficient on 3-8 Mathematics
- % of students proficient on 3-8 English Language Arts
- % of students proficient on 5th and 8th grade Science

How will school performance and growth be reported for high schools?

End-of-Course Assessments

- % of students proficient on Algebra I/Integrated Math I, Biology and English II assessments

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

- % of students who score well enough to have a 75% chance of getting a C or higher in their first credit bearing college course

Graduation Rates

- 4-year: % of students that graduate within 4 years
- 5-year: % of students that graduate within 5 years

Future-Ready Core Completion

- % of graduates who pass higher-level math classes

WorkKeys

- % of graduates achieving the Silver Certificate, or better, on the WorkKeys assessments

How will public schools be evaluated?

Beginning 2014-15, each public school will be assigned a letter grade A-F based on school performance and growth annually. The State Board of Education has worked with educators and communities to determine how to award letter grades.