What are the New Standards?
The standards describe what students should know from kindergarten through 12th grade. They define the reading, writing, and math knowledge and skills needed at each grade level. Each year builds on the next so that by high school graduation, students are prepared to go to college or to enter the workplace.

The standards are rigorous and based on research. They were developed through comparisons with other countries with input from teachers, school administrators, parents, college entrance test developers, policymakers and business leaders.

These standards offer consistent expectations for student learning across much of the nation. As a result, school transitions after a family moves across district or state lines should be much easier for everyone. Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted the Common Core State Standards, which makes Alaska’s new standards common skills that are also transferable.

Why Common Core?
The Common Core State Standards Initiative coordinated by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

> Preparation: The standards are college and career ready
> Competition: The standards are internationally benchmarked, ensuring our students are globally competitive
> Equity: Expectations are consistent for all — and not dependent on a student’s zip code
> Clarity: The standards are focused, coherent, and clear
> Collaboration: The standards create a foundation to work collaboratively across states and districts

Alaska Assessment Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Measurement of current standards including Grade Level Expectations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>Begin state assessments to measure progress towards the new standards</td>
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The New Standards Do:
- Define what all students are expected to know and be able to do
- Focus on what is most essential
- Set grade-specific standards

The New Standards Do Not:
- Define how teachers should teach
- Describe all that can or should be taught
- Define the nature of advanced work for students who meet the standards prior to the end of high school
- Define the intervention methods or materials necessary to support students who are well below or well above grade-level expectations
- Define the full range of supports appropriate for English language learners and for students with special needs
- Define the whole of college and career readiness skills especially in the area of ELA and content area literacy

More Information:
Sitka School District Office
300 Kostrometinoff St, Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-8622 / sitkaschools.org

Special thanks to corestandards.org for providing content that was used as a base in this flyer.

Common Core State Standards

Sitka School District Vision: Educating our children to realize their potential and contribute in a connected global society.

Sitka School District Mission: Foster each child’s maximum growth in academics, social-emotional and physical wellbeing. Prepare children for their chosen careers, and inspire them to become active, informed community members by providing:

- Relevant, innovative, and engaging learning opportunities
- Clear goals and high expectations
- Opportunities for collaboration among students, parents, staff, and community using an active outreach to stakeholders
- A culture of respect for self and others, and no tolerance for bullying

This brochure is designed to give families information and links to resources regarding new English Language Arts and Math standards adopted by the Sitka School Board.
Family Resources

With the wide implementation of the Common Core State Standards, which is equivalent to the new Alaska Standards, families now have access to a wide variety of resources to better understand the new standards, as well as access to resources to help students as they work with the new standards.

For more information on how you can support your child’s education, visit these websites:


Common Core Standards: http://www.corestandards.org/

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development website: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/

What Parents Need to Know About the Common Core Standards? http://educationnorthwest.org/resource/1547

Common Misunderstandings about the Common Core State Standards:

- They are not policy enacted by Congress or run by the Department of Education
- They are designed to allow flexibility for how the standards are taught and enable teachers to embrace diversification in their planning

English Language Arts (ELA)

> College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards
> Grade Level Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language
> Literacy Standards in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

READING:
> A progressive development of reading comprehension ensures students gain more from what they read
> An emphasis on text complexity and sophistication in grade level texts promotes necessary rigor

WRITING:
> Focuses on composing different types of writing:
  - Argumentative/opinion pieces
  - Informative/explanatory writings
  - Narrative texts
  - Research projects (brief as well as sustained inquiry)
> Infuses use of technology in creation, refinement, and collaboration in writing
> Includes an appendix of writing samples illustrating criteria required to meet the standards

SPEAKING AND LISTENING:
> Focuses on speaking and listening in a range of settings, both formal and informal – academic, small-group, whole-class discussions
> Emphasizes effective communication practices
> Requires interpretation and analysis of message as presented through oral, visual, or multimodal formats

LANGUAGE:
> Includes conventions for writing and speaking
> Highlights the importance of vocabulary acquisition through a mix of conversation, direct instruction, and reading
> Requires vocabulary to be addressed in context of reading, writing, speaking, and listening

Mathematics

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE:
> Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
> Reason abstractly and quantitatively
> Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
> Model with mathematics
> Use appropriate tools strategically
> Attend to precision
> Look for and make use of structure
> Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

STANDARDS FOR MATHEMATICAL CONTENT:
> K-5: Develop a strong concrete-to-conceptual foundation in number and operations, including fractions and decimals
> 6-8: Develop a robust understanding of algebra, geometry, probability, and statistics
> High School: Apply mathematics and mathematical ways of thinking in novel situations, as college students and employees are regularly called upon to do