

League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces

COMMON CORE CURRICULUM STANDARDS

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

- ☒ The standards are aligned with college and work expectations;
- ☒ Are clear, understandable; and consistent;
- ☒ Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills (Example: “Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary & secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.”);
- ☒ Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- ☒ Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- ☒ Are evidence based.

See also “**Understanding the Common Core Standards**” at www.corestandards.org

Definitions of terms related to what knowledge and skills students will learn

(Content standards; Common core standards; Core academics; Core Curriculum)

are available along with the **NM State Core Curriculum Requirements in Grades K-12** at

<http://www.nmcp.state.nm.us/nmac/parts/title06/06.029.001.htm> .

Who developed the Common Core State Standards? When developed?

In 2010 a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, developed the standards to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce. Alaska and Texas were the only states that didn't participate. New Mexico is one of 43 states that have adopted the Common Core State Standards.

When were the Common Core Standards adopted by New Mexico? LCPS?

The NM Department of Education in a News Release, dated June 18, 2010, held a Public Hearing for K-12 Mathematics and English/Language Arts Common Core Standards. In the summer, 2010, LCPS began implementation of core standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics and continued into the school year 2010/2011. Implementation of the Science, Social Studies and Technology core standards will begin in the next few years.

Why were the Common Core Standards developed and adopted? Accountability

What type of knowledge and skills are found in the core standards?

These standards are specific in stating what skills students should be able to demonstrate at each grade level. Core curriculum classes would include the development of basic and advanced skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, analytical thinking, problem solving, listening, speaking, technical and oral communication skills.

Examples of Core Standards used in LCPS and all public schools, K-12 in NM

Reading standards in Grades K-2

Kindergarten

6. With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.

Grade One

6. Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.

Grade Two

6. Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

Reading standards in Grades 3-5

Grade Three

2. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

Grade Four

2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

Grade Five

2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects 6–12

Grades 6-8

2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; provide an accurate summary of the text distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

Grades 9-10

2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; trace the text's explanation or depiction of a complex process, phenomenon, or concept; provide an accurate summary of the text.

Grades 11-12

2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.

Myths v. Facts About the Common Core Standards

Myths About Content and Quality: General

Myth: Adopting common standards will bring all states' standards down to the lowest common denominator, which means states with high standards will be taking a step backwards if they adopt the Standards.

Myth: The *Standards* are not internationally benchmarked.

Myth: The *Standards* only include skills and do not address the importance of content knowledge.

Myths About Content and Quality: English-language arts

Myth: The *Standards* suggest teaching “Grapes of Wrath” to second graders.

Myth: The *Standards* are just vague descriptions of skills; they don’t include a reading list or any other similar reference to content.

Myth: English teachers will be asked to teach science and social studies reading materials.

Myth: The *Standards* don’t have enough emphasis on fiction/literature

Myths About Content and Quality: Math

Myth: The *Standards* do not prepare or require students to learn Algebra in the 8th grade, as many states’ current standards do.

Myth: Key math topics are missing or appear in the wrong grade.

Myths About Process

Myth: No teachers were involved in writing the *Standards*.

Myth: The *Standards* are not research or evidence based.

Myths About Implementation

Myth: The *Standards* tell teachers what to teach.

Myth: The *Standards* will be implemented through NCLB – signifying the federal government will be leading them.

Myth: These *Standards* amount to a national curriculum for our schools.

(All of these myths are false – See www.corestandards.org .)