



- align with college and career expectations
- include rigorous content and require application of higher order thinking skills
- build upon the strengths and lessons of current state standards
- be internationally benchmarked
- be based on evidence and research

The ELA/Literacy standards include reading, writing, speaking, and listening and also address literacy in science, social studies and technical subjects, so that teachers in these subjects will also be responsible for cultivating students' reading skills. The new standards require K-5 students to read a balance of fiction and non-fiction, all students to read increasingly complex text and be able to answer questions based upon a close reading of that text, elementary students to write to argue/persuade earlier, and all students to use academic vocabulary.

The Mathematics standards are intended to promote deep understanding of key concepts through greater focus on critical areas in each grade. They emphasize mathematical modeling, use of mathematics and statistics to analyze empirical situations, application to real world settings, thinking and reasoning mathematically, and a rigorous definition of college and career readiness.

Along with the Common Core State Standards will come a new assessment (testing) system that will replace the CMTs and CAPTs in these subject areas beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The system will include a balance of summative (end of year), interim, and formative (used as feedback to modify teaching and learning activities) assessments and will be heavily computer adaptive.

The district has begun preparing for the new standards, with this year designated as a year of study and design. This includes attendance of district leaders at workshops, planning for professional development of staff, faculty meetings and CSI time, and curriculum writing and revision.

In her Superintendent's Report, Dr. Karen List announced that the Power School student portal is now open for high school students, who can use it to look at their grades and to register for classes. It will open for 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the spring so that they can register for their 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes. She also announced that the board will hold a workshop on the Common Core State Standards on January 5 to look at the standards in greater depth and connect them to the district performance plan.

The next board event will be the workshop on the Common Core State Standards on Thursday, January 5, at 6:00 p.m. in room 400 at Town Hall. It will not be televised.

The next regular board meeting will take place January 17 at 7:00 p.m. in room 314 at Town Hall.

*Observer name: Kathy Wilson*