



NEW STANDARDS NEWSLETTER

March 18, 2013
Volume I

Welcome to the New Standards Newsletter!

This is the first of several *New Standards Newsletters* that will be sent to you for the remainder of this school year. The goal of these newsletters is to provide you with information regarding the upcoming changes in the world of education in the state of Alaska. As you know, states across the nation are adopting the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). While Alaska did not adopt the CCSS, the state did make some major changes to the state mandated expectations. In fact, the new Alaska State Standards (simply referred to as “the Standards”) are very closely tied to the CCSS. They can be viewed as equivalent, but not identical. A teacher in Alaska that studies the Common Core will be well versed in the new Standards.

Since this change and the Standards themselves are important content for all of us to know, this newsletter will use good teaching practices by scaffolding information and slowly building our understanding. Today’s newsletter will focus on big ideas and changes. The details to these ideas and changes will build with each subsequent newsletter.

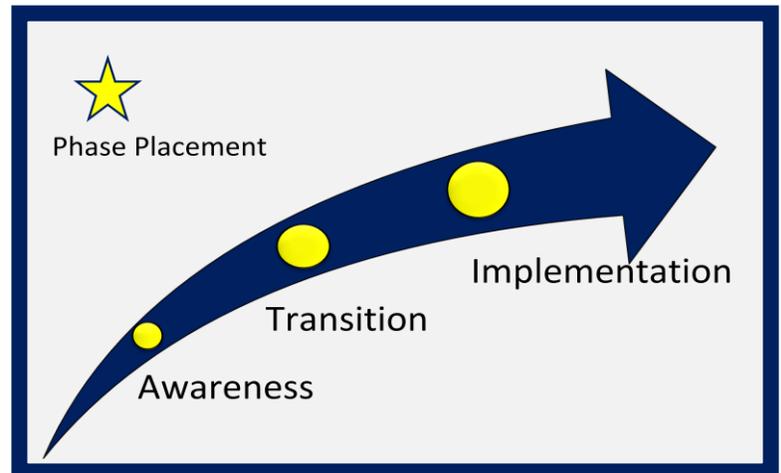
We will use two main methods of getting this important information out to you. Every week or so, you will receive a New Standards Newsletter like this one. Additionally, starting on April 10, we will use our Wednesday collaboration meeting time to expand our knowledge of the new Standards. This will include some video presentations, webinars, and group work completed by each site.

Why the change?

Alaskan educators reviewed and compared the current Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) to other common national standards. We now know the GLE’s:

- Are over six years old
- Do not extend beyond 10th grade
- Are broad and open to teacher interpretation
- Are lower in rigor than other standards

The change is about college and career readiness for our students.



Three phase implementation of the New Alaska State Standards

We are following the EED recommended process of a three phase implementation.

This includes:

- 2012-13 - Building Awareness
- 2013-14 - Transitioning
- 2014-15 - Full Implementation
- Spring 2015 – First State Assessment on the New Standards

We will explore what “Awareness” looks like in the next New Standards Newsletter.

New Vocabulary for all Alaska Educators!

“Curriculum” = What we want our students to know and be able to do

“Instructional Materials” = The tools we use to help us teach the curriculum (textbooks, workbooks, computer programs, on-line programs, etc)

Yukon Koyukuk School District

New Alaska State Standards!

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Major English/Language Arts Shifts Major Math Shifts

New Vocabulary for all Alaska Educators!

“GLEs” = Old Grade Level
Expectations

“Standards” = The New Alaska
State Standards

The principles of the Common Core
State Standards can be summed up
as follows:

- Fewer
- Clearer
- Higher
- Career and college readiness
- Honest about available teaching time

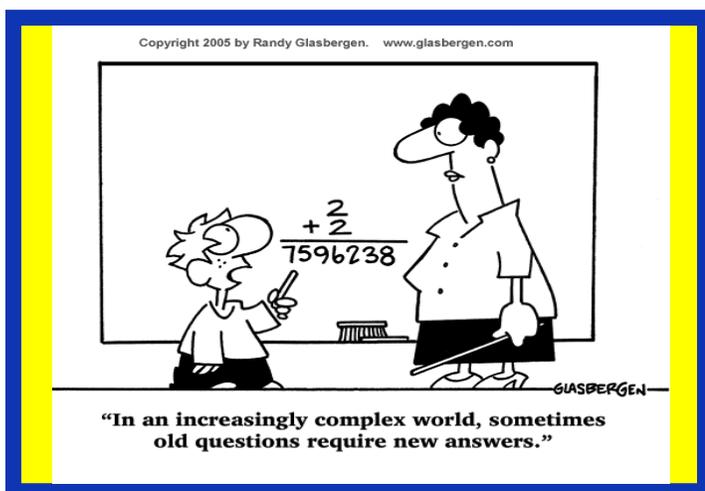
The upcoming changes can be unsettling. Thousands of teachers across the nation are feeling the same thing that we are feeling. No matter what state teachers work in, they are being impacted by the Common Core. These changes may be worrisome to some of us. That’s okay. The change will be muddy at times. That’s okay, too. It’s kind of like turning a propeller plane into a jet plane while it’s flying. The task at hand may seem impossible at times. Please know that the district office plans to provide as much support as we can to make this transition to the new Standards as smooth as possible.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

- APRIL 10
- DURING COLLAB MEETING TIME
- INTRODUCING THE STANDARDS
- PUT ON BY THE EED

Please check out the EED’s
on-line toolkit for more
detailed information

<http://education.alaska.gov/standards/toolkit.html>



TEACHING
is
BEHAVIOR
that INCREASES the
PROBABILITY OF LEARNING

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