



# NEW STANDARDS NEWS LETTER

March 25, 2013  
Volume II

## Greetings!

Thank your reading the second installment of the *New Standards Newsletter!* If you have a few extra minutes, it might be beneficial to the learning curve if you compare the information in this newsletter with Volume I that came out last week. Try to identify which concepts have been spiraled and in what way. The mental comparison may help solidify some of this very important information.

## Did you know...

- 80% of required reading in college and the workplace comes from informational text. You are reading informational text right now!
- Less than 15% of reading done in grades K – 8 is informational text.

## REMINDER!

- APRIL 10
- WEBINAR ON NEW STANDARDS
- DURING COLLABORATION MEETING
- SPECIFICALLY FOR YKSD

## AK Standards compared to CCSS

- Very Similar
- Equal in rigor
- Equivalent but not identical
  - Clarity to ensure that teachers understand the focus and purpose of each standard
  - Key Alaskan Standards retained, especially measuring standards in elementary math

**We are in the first, or Awareness Phase of the New Alaska State Standards. That means, by the end of this school year, all district leaders and teachers will understand the:**

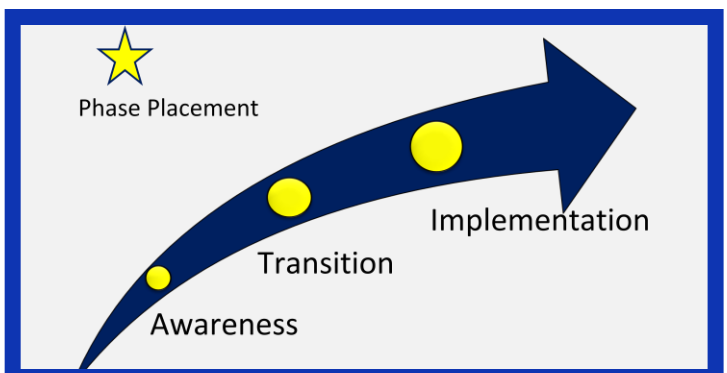
- Rationale
- Language
- Structure
- Major Shifts

**of the English/Language Arts and Math Standards**

## Rational of the change

The change is about college and career readiness for our students. We know that our current GLEs

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



**Three year implementation plan:**

- 2012-13 - Awareness
- 2013-14 - Transition
- 2014-15 - Implementation

# New Alaska State Standards!

Major English/  
Language Arts Shifts

3

Major Math Shifts

## ELA Shift basics

- 1) Content Rich Non-Fiction
- 2) Evidence from the text
- 3) Complex text with academic vocabulary

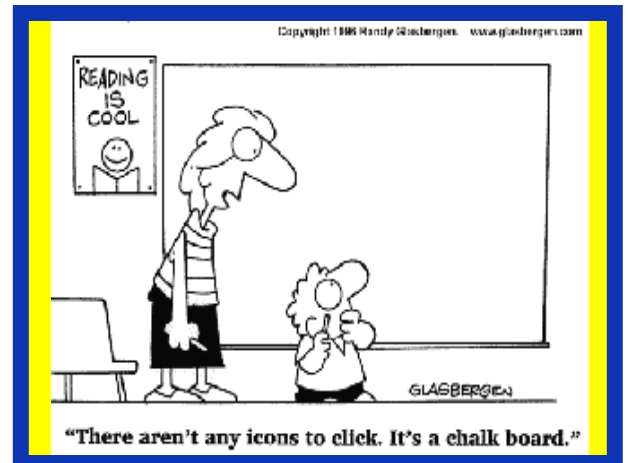
## Math Shift basics

- 1) Focus
- 2) Coherence
- 3) Rigor

The next *New Standards Newsletter* will contain more details of each of the three shifts in Math and the three shifts in English/Language Arts. Between now and then, please try to spend a few minutes each day memorizing the basic shifts in both content areas. Some teachers may find it beneficial to print this *New Standards Newsletter* and refer to this page every time they sit at their desk. Others may want to write them out in their own handwriting and keep it handy.

## All YKSD curriculum must be Guaranteed and Viable

- ❖ Guaranteed – all students have the opportunity to learn the same content that all teachers are expected to deliver
- ❖ Viable – the curriculum can be taught in the available time



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

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

It is impossible to  
grow in our craft in  
isolation of others.

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