



NEW STANDARDS NEWS LETTER

April 8, 2013
Volume IV

Thank you for reading the latest edition of the *New Standards Newsletter*. Your efforts now will benefit you and your students in the future! This week, we look at The Why's of the changes and next week, we will look at The What's of the changes.

**THE NEW ALASKA STANDARDS:
FEWER, CLEARER, HIGHER**

New Standards Webinar Reminder

- **April 10 - 2:45-3:45**
- **Look for emails with technical info**
- **During collaboration meetings**
- **Only YKSD is involved**

3 ELA Shift basics – The Why...

1) Building knowledge through content rich non-fiction

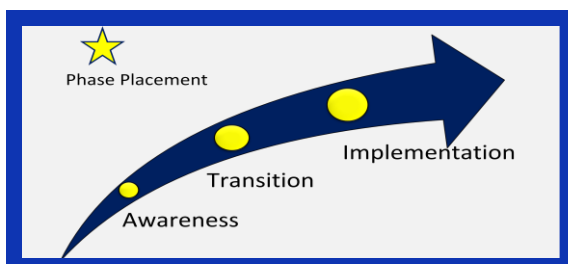
- Much of our knowledge base comes from informational text.**
- Informational text makes up 80% of the required reading in college and the workplace.**
- Informational text is harder for students to understand than narrative text**

2) Reading and writing grounded in evidence from the text

- Most college and workplace writing requires evidence.**
- The ability to cite evidence differentiates strong from weak student performance on NAEP.**
- Being able to locate and deploy evidence are hallmarks of strong readers and writers.**

3) Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary

- The gap between the complexity of college and high school text is huge.**
- What students can read, in terms of complexity, is the greatest predictor of success in college (ACT Study)**
- Less than 50% of Alaska high school graduates can read sufficiently complex text to succeed in college.**
- The Alaska ELA Standards focus on building the general academic vocabulary that is critical to comprehension.**



AWARENESS: By the end of this school year, we should understand the rationale, language, structure, and major shifts of the New English/Language Arts and Math Standards.

New Alaska State Standards!

3 Math Shift basics – The Why

1) **Focus:** In each grade or course, focus deeply on 2-4 topics

- a. Learn from international comparisons – the US is known for “mile wide, inch deep” learning.
- b. We “cover” too many topics with little time to build command of anything.

2) **Coherence:** *Think across grades and link to major topics within grades*

- a. Carefully connect the learning within and across grades so that students can build new understanding onto foundations built in previous years.
- b. Begin to count on solid conceptual understanding of core content and build on it. Each standard is an extension of previous learning.

3) **Rigor:** In major topics pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity

- a. This requires equal intensity in time, activities, and resources in pursuit of all three.

ELA Standards are divided into four areas

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language

Math Standards are divided into two areas

- Standards of Mathematical Practice which are consistent k-12
- Standards of Mathematical Content which vary by grade

Cover Less - Teach More - Review Everything

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

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

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