

# Frequently Asked Questions Alaska English Language Arts Standards

## Did Alaska adopt the Common Core State Standards?

Alaska did not adopt the Common Core State Standards. Adopting states agreed to accept the standards in their entirety and not change them in the future. Alaska did not want to be bound by these restrictions.

## What is an academic standard?

- Academic standards are statements of what students are expected to know and be able to do at specific grade levels.
- Standards focus on essential concepts, knowledge, and skills necessary for students to succeed.
- Standards are designed to increase student achievement.

## Are the Alaska English Language Arts Standards curriculum?

No. It is the responsibility of local school districts to develop curriculum that is aligned to the Alaska Standards. Curriculum is the plan, including the use of instructional materials, for how students will meet the standards.

## How are the Alaska English Language Arts Standards different from the former Grade Level Expectations (GLEs)?

- The Alaska English Language Arts Standards extend to graduation. The GLEs went only through grade 10.
- The GLEs were a blueprint for assessment. The Alaska English Language Arts Standards equip students with skills for success in higher education and a career.
- The GLEs were a list of content that was to be covered in a grade level. The Alaska English Language Arts Standards identify a set of skills and abilities students should display at the end of a particular grade.
- The Alaska English Language Arts Standards include standards for speaking and listening. The GLEs did not.
- The Alaska English Language Arts Standards have specific standards for literacy in history, social studies, science, and technical subjects for grades 6-12. The GLEs did not include literacy standards for content areas.
- The Alaska English Language Arts Standards emphasize the need for students to demonstrate independence in comprehending informational as well as literary text. The GLEs did not.

## Do the new Alaska English Language Arts Standards have implication for instructional practice?

*Toward preparing  
students to be  
college, career, and  
culturally ready  
graduates.*



Alaska Department of  
Education & Early  
Development  
801 West 10th Street,  
Suite 200  
P. O. Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

<http://education.alaska.gov>

Yes. The Alaska English Language Arts Standards reflect three key shifts, which will encourage changes to instructional practices and curriculum.

- Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction.
- Reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from literary and informational text.
- Regular practice with complex text and its academic vocabulary.

### **What is the Department of Education & Early Development doing to help districts, schools, and teachers transition to the Alaska English Language Arts Standards?**

The Department of Education & Early Development has spent the last year working with districts and schools through the awareness and transition phases for the new standards. During this time, the new standards were introduced. EED provided guidance to help them determine how best to move toward implementation of the new English Language Arts Standards.

The goal for this year is to work extensively on training and tools that districts can use to help teachers begin to successfully implement the new Alaska English Language Arts Standards.

- Fall and Spring Teaching & Learning Support Institutes
- Online professional learning supports including
  - Webinars
  - Modules
  - Instructional support documents

### **What are some of the ways Alaskan students will benefit from the Alaska English Language Arts Standards?**

The Alaska English Language Arts Standards will

- Help prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in college or workforce training programs.
- Equip students with the skill and abilities to be competitive in job markets in and out of Alaska.
- Develop, apply and assess students' ability to effectively comprehend all types of text, construct rich understandings of content, and successfully articulate well-formed ideas verbally and in a written form.

