

Utah Core Standards 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

Development of the new Utah Core Standards

Who developed the Core State Standards?

The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) coordinated the development of the new standards. The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts.



What are the benefits of the Core State Standards?

The Core State Standards will provide educators, parents, and students with clear, focused expectations consistent among states that have adopted them. Students and parents will find uniform curriculum as they move from state to state. Students will be better prepared for higher education or their chosen career.

Has the Federal Government mandated that we adopt the Core State Standards?

No. Each state has independently and voluntarily determined whether or not to adopt these standards. They are not nationally or federally mandated standards. The Utah State School Board officially adopted the standards in the spring of 2010. The Core State Standards have now become our new Utah Core Standards.

Each district and charter school determined their own implementation timeline.

Teacher Preparation for the new Utah Core Standards

How will secondary teachers be trained to implement the new Utah Core Standards?

Teachers will be trained this summer in three days of professional development institutes. Ongoing support and training will continue throughout next school year.



Secondary English Language Arts will be implemented in 2012-2013. The new junior high math classes (Intermediate Math 1 for 7th Grade, Intermediate Math 2 for eighth grade, and Secondary Math 1 for 9th Grade) will be implemented during 2012-2013. In the high schools, Secondary Math 2 (10th grade) will be implemented in 2013-2014 while Secondary Math 3 (11th grade) will be implemented in 2014-2015.

What training and support will elementary teachers receive during this implementation?

The first implementation of the new core will include sixth grade math and K-5 English Language Arts. Teachers of these subjects will receive one day of training in Spring 2012. During Summer 2012, teachers will attend a three-day training. Teachers hired after the training is over will receive the same instruction at conferences held during the Fall 2012. Monthly support meetings will be available for teachers in these areas throughout the 2012-2013 school year.

The second implementation of the new core will include sixth grade English Language Arts and K-5 Math. Teachers of these subjects will receive one day of training in Spring 2013. During Summer 2013, teachers will attend a three-day training. Teachers hired after the training is over will receive the same instruction at conferences held during the Fall 2013. Monthly support meetings will be available for teachers in these areas throughout the 2013-2014 school year.

What will happen with Math textbooks and materials?

Publishers have produced textbooks that specifically align with the new core to help teachers avoid a piecemeal and supplementary approach to instruction. The district created a committee that evaluated and recommended textbooks aligned with the newly adopted core. After Board approval, each school will have the opportunity to select a textbook from the approved options. This adoption will take place in Spring 2012 for sixth grade and Spring 2013 for grades K-5.



Impact on Students

As students transition from the old Utah Core Standards to the new Utah Core Standards, will there be gaps in the content?

Yes, there will be a few gaps. However, in order to ensure a successful transition, teachers will be supplementing and bridging the content gaps for students during the first year of implementation. These areas have already been identified and materials and resources have already been developed and will be included in the teacher training.

How will our students be assessed on the new Utah Core Standards?

Students in grade K-2 will participate in district assessments. Students in grades 3-12 will participate in state literacy and math assessments. The current plan is to pilot these assessments in the 2013-2014 school year.

How will the new Utah Core Standards support students that may need acceleration or re-learning?

We will continue to use the three-tiered system of support for all students and use the four essential questions to guide lesson content and design. The three-tiered support system provides students with access to core instruction, supplemental targeted interventions and then intensive targeted interventions as needs are determined. All

teachers will continue to focus on the Four Essential Questions: What do we expect students to learn? How will we know what students have learned? How will we respond to students who are not learning? How will we respond to students who already know?

Is there an accelerated math program?

Yes. Students must pass a placement test to enter into the Accelerated Math Path. This path enables students to take AP Calculus in 11th grade and AP Statistics in 12th grade. (See math brochure for additional information.)



What math pathways are available for students after 6th grade?

Once the new standards are fully implemented, there will be three paths: Regular, Honors, and Accelerated. (See math brochure for additional information.)

How can we ensure that English Language Learners meet the New Utah Core Standards?

It is critical that with the adoption of the new Utah Core Standards students learning English as an additional language receive supplemental instructional support in order to access these college and career ready standards.

These supports include an instructional model that incorporates extensive vocabulary development, building background, learning strategies, practice and application and frequent formative assessments.



An increased emphasis on best instructional practices for English Language Learners will be included in teacher workshops and professional development aimed at implementing the New Utah Core Standards.

How will Special Education programs be supported through the implementation of the new Utah Core Standards?

Special education teachers will attend Alpine School District’s regular education trainings to receive information on the new Utah Core Standards and the scope and sequence of the curriculum. By pairing content knowledge with the continued use of research-based strategies, special education teachers will be able to support students in the new Utah Core Standards.



Special Education teachers will continue to be supported with training through ongoing math and literacy cohorts that emphasize content knowledge with research based instructional strategies known to benefits students with disabilities.

Each student’s Individual Education Plan goals, which guide

the student's instructional program in special education, are written based on the new Utah Core Standards.

Accordingly, students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities have an Extended Core from which their programs are designed based on the new Utah Core Standards. The Extended Core for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities allows students with severe disabilities to access the standards in the new Utah Core Standards in Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

Where are some resources if we want to know more?

ASD Website:

http://curriculum.alpineschools.org/?page_id=167



USOE Website

<http://www.schools.org/core>



ASD Elementary Math

http://curriculum.alpineschools.org/?page_id=1006



ASD Secondary Math

http://curriculum.alpineschools.org/?page_id=177

