

KENTUCKY EDGUIDES | GOALS & RESULTS 1.1

Kentucky Academic Standards

Academic standards specify what students should know and be able to do. Standards establish the key areas where teachers should focus instruction, and they offer students, parents, and citizens a clear picture of the learning they should expect to see. The Kentucky Academic Standards provide that guidance for public schools throughout the commonwealth.

Standards are different than curriculum and assessments, two other terms often heard in conversations about education. Here's how all three work together:

- **Standards** set goals for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. They say what should be learned, not how it must be taught.
- **Curriculum** includes the content (novels, textbooks, etc.) and lesson plans that teachers use in their daily instruction.
- **Assessments** include statewide tests that align with the grade-level goals set by the standards. They measure whether the curriculum has successfully expanded the students' knowledge and let parents, teachers, and the students themselves know whether they are on track to succeed after high school. Kentucky assesses reading, mathematics, science, social studies, writing, and language mechanics. Program reviews check the quality of student learning opportunities in writing, arts & humanities, and practical living/career studies. Assessments can also include additional tests and other methods of gathering evidence about what students know and can do, including evidence that will be used to plan further learning steps.

SUBJECT	SUBDOMAINS WITHIN THAT SUBJECT
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reading literature and informational texts ■ Writing arguments, explanations, and narratives ■ Speaking and listening ■ Language skills ■ Foundational skill standards for elementary students ■ Reading and writing standards for work in middle and high school science and social studies
MATHEMATICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mathematical practices (for example, problem solving, reasoning and proof, and representation) ■ Elementary and middle school content standards organized by grade ■ High school content standards organized by central concepts (allowing local decisions about how to organize specific mathematics courses)

CREATING THE STANDARDS

For English language arts and mathematics, Kentucky has adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a multi-state effort to define college and career readiness. Kentucky was the first state in the nation to adopt the CCSS and assess student progress toward those new standards.

The science standards reflect Next Generation Science Standards developed by 26 states to set college and career ready standards for that discipline, and the new Arts standards also reflect multi-state collaboration.

For the remaining subjects, Kentucky is currently using the 2007 Kentucky Core Content for Assessment 4.1, and also working with other states to develop revised versions.

LEARNING MORE

At www.education.ky.gov, you can find the full standards by searching for "Academic Standards." Added information on Common Core State Standards is available at www.corestandards.org, and details on the new science standards are offered at www.nextgenscience.org

At www.prichardcommittee.org, other Kentucky EdGuides explain Statewide Assessments, Results for All Students and Results for Underserved Student Groups. The EdGuide on Quality of Learning Programs explains the new program reviews and their early results.

SUBJECT	SUBDOMAINS WITHIN THAT SUBJECT
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Physical Sciences ■ Life Sciences ■ Earth and Space Sciences ■ Engineering, Technology, and Application of Science
SOCIAL STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Government and Civics ■ Culture and Society ■ Economics ■ Geography ■ Historical Perspective
ARTS & HUMANITIES (New standards approved by the Kentucky Board of Education in June 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dance ■ Media Arts ■ Music ■ Theatre ■ Visual Arts
PRACTICAL LIVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Personal Wellness ■ Nutrition ■ Safety ■ Psychomotor Skills ■ Lifetime Physical Wellness
VOCATIONAL STUDIES (now called Career Studies in many other state documents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consumer Decisions ■ Financial Literacy ■ Career Awareness, Exploration, Planning ■ Employability Skills ■ Communication/Technology
TECHNOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Information, Communication and Productivity ■ Safety and Ethical/Social Issues ■ Research, Inquiry/Problem-Solving and Innovation

The Kentucky Early Childhood Standards address birth to age 3 and for ages 4 and 5 in separate sections and are aligned with the Kentucky Academic Standards. The Early Childhood Standards can be found at education.ky.gov by searching for “early childhood.”