

Do the Utah Core State Standards prevent/prohibit the teaching of Literature?

No. In order to build a foundation for college and career readiness, students must read widely and deeply from a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literature. Through extensive reading of stories, dramas, and poetry from diverse cultures and different time periods, students gain literary and cultural knowledge. Students must also build a foundation of knowledge in other disciplines by reading informational texts in history, social studies, science, and technical subjects. College and career reading in these areas requires an understanding of the kinds of evidence used in history and science, an attention to precise details, and capacity to evaluate intricate arguments, synthesize complex information and follow detailed descriptions of events and concepts.

What do the Standards mean for mathematics instruction?

Utah chose to adopt the Integrated Pathway for mathematics which simply means that Geometry, Algebra and Probability/Statistics are taught as a unified and interconnected discipline as opposed to discrete mathematical elements. Students in today's mathematics classrooms will use mathematical skills and knowledge to analyze situations, understand them more clearly and to improve decision-making skills. Instruction will emphasize conceptual understanding rather than just rote, procedural skills as in years past. The true power in the Integrated Pathway is that deep, robust, application-based knowledge will now be accessible and applicable to all students.

College and Career Ready Standards

The Standards lay out a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the twenty-first century. The skills and understandings students are expected to demonstrate have wide applicability outside the classroom or workplace. Students who meet the Standards readily undertake the close, attentive reading that is at the heart of understanding and enjoying complex works of literature. They habitually perform the critical reading necessary to pick carefully through the staggering amount of information available today in print and digitally. They actively seek the wide, deep, and thoughtful engagement with high-quality literary and informational texts that builds knowledge, enlarges experience, and broadens worldviews. They demonstrate reasoning and use of evidence that is essential to both private deliberation and responsible citizenship. In short, students who meet the Standards develop the skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening that are the foundation for any creative and purposeful expression in language.

Is my student's assessment data completely secure?

Absolutely! Access to student-level assessment data is completely restricted. Parents can access their own student's data at any time.

For Utah Core State Standards go to:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/main/Curriculum-Programs.aspx>

Questions & Answers Regarding the Utah Core State Standards



Weber School District

"The Common Core State Standards are an example of states recognizing a problem, then working together, sharing what works and what doesn't."

*Former Governor Jeb Bush
June, 2011*



May, 2013

Utah and the Common Core...

In 2010 the Utah State Board of Education voted to adopt the Common Core State Standards. Utah has reserved the right to withdraw or change the standards at any time to ensure they reflect the values of our state. Therefore, they were renamed the Utah Core State Standards.

Did Weber School District adopt the Utah Core State Standards?

We teach the Utah Core State Standards as per state law.

Were the Common Core State Standards created by the Federal Government?

No. They were created under the direction of the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers (State Superintendents). No federal government officials were included in the discussions of these groups.

"From the beginning, we have made clear that whatever we do in public education, we must ensure the preservation of state sovereignty and control over standards, testing, curriculum, or textbooks. Based on input from parents, Utah, not the federal government, will be the final arbiter in determining what is in the best interests of Utah's children."

Governor Gary Herbert

Does Utah receive Federal funds attached to the Common Core?

No. Utah continues to receive Federal funding for IDEA, Title I, Title II, and Title III. This funding has been in place for more than four decades.

What are standards?

Standards are determined at a **state level**. They define what students should know and be able to do. They help teachers organize and prepare for instruction and provide a stable target to measure student achievement. Utah has core standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, arts, health, library media, and technology.

What is curriculum?

Curriculum includes content, instructional elements, methods, pedagogy, materials, and resources to teach the standards.

Did Utah adopt a new national curriculum?

No. Districts maintain total autonomy of selection of curriculum. WSD involves our own teachers and community in selecting appropriate resources to support instruction.

Do the Standards mandate how to teach a certain subject?

No. The best understanding of what works in the classroom comes from teachers. The standards will establish what students need to learn, but they will not dictate how teachers should teach. Schools and teachers will decide how to best help all students reach the standards.

"I am convinced the Utah Core Standards in math and language arts are right for Utah students. These standards will better prepare our students for college and to be competitive in the global economy. These standards are in harmony with Utah values."

*Senator Howard Stephenson
April, 2012*

Is Utah required to have standards?

The Utah State Board of Education, in January of 1984, established policy requiring the identification of specific core standards to be met by all K-12 students in order to graduate from Utah's secondary schools. The Utah State Board of Education regularly updates the Standards, while parents, teachers, and local school boards continue to control the curriculum choices that reflect local values.

Were locally elected officials, school leaders, teachers, and parents included in the discussion, evaluation and preparation of the Utah Core State Standards?

Yes. In 2009 USOE began holding several meetings across the state to gather input on the Standards. Stakeholder input was also gathered from superintendents, curriculum directors, legislators, higher education representatives, PTA and business leaders.