Making Sense of Standards, Curriculum, and Assessments

The separate yet important role each plays in the education of our children
Overview

- Education Policy – A Little History
- Define Standards, Curriculum, & Assessments
- Why are they important?
- Explain how they work together in the education of our children
- A Look Into the Future
A Little History

Federal
- Every Child Succeeds Act (ESEA) 1965
- No Child Left Behind (NCLB) 2001
- Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015

States
- Common Core State Standards (CCSS) 2010
# Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Standards in Florida</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Minimum student performance skills defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>State Board of Education approval of curriculum frameworks (now defined as course descriptions) and student performance standards remained in place until 1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>New minimum performance standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Florida Sunshine State Standards developed in all content areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007 - 2012</td>
<td>Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards developed in all content areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2010 Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (Common Core) in ELA and Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Florida Standards</td>
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WHAT ARE THE FLORIDA STANDARDS?

“A set of clear, consistent and strong academic standards that will help ensure Florida’s students graduate high school ready for success in college, career and life.”
“No one rises to low expectations!”
STANDARDS: Who do They Benefit?

- Students
- Parents
- Teachers
- Businesses and the Economy
Let's review!

The Florida Standards are:

• A single set of clear standards (expectations) for English language arts and mathematics;

• A clear, focused roadmap for what to teach in each grade level;

• A tool to help teachers, students and parents set clear and realistic goals for success; and

• An important step in providing students with the high-quality education that will prepare them for success in college, careers and life.
IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

• Standards ≠ Curriculum
• Standards are statements of skill expectations
• Curriculum are instructional strategies
Curriculum aligned to standards

• FL DOE Video Gallery – curriculum examples
Assessments

- Evaluate student learning, knowledge, skills
- Different types
  - Diagnostic – prior to instruction, provides baseline
  - Formative – ongoing, informal, monitor student learning; don’t have to be graded
  - Summative – evaluate learning

“When the cook tastes the soup, that's formative. When the guests taste the soup, that's summative.”

~ Michael Scriven
Assessments

FSA Mathematics Training Test Questions

3. A bakery uses 48 pounds of flour each day. It orders flour every 28 days. Create an equation that shows how many pounds of flour the bakery needs to order every 28 days.

4. Select all the expressions that have the same value as $30 \div 10$.
   - $1 \times 3$
   - $10 \div 30$
   - $30 \times 10$
   - $30 \div 10 \div 1$
   - $30 \div (2 \div 5)$
   - $(30 \div 2) \div 5$
Florida Assessments

- **Florida Standards Assessments**: The Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), which measure student success with the Florida Standards, include assessments in English language arts (grades 3-11), mathematics (grades 3-8), and end-of-course assessments for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2.

- **Statewide Science Assessment**: The statewide science assessment measures student success with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and includes assessments in grades 5 and 8.

- **EOC Assessments**: The End-of-Course Assessments are computer-based tests designed to measure student achievement of the specified standards for middle- and high-school level courses in science (Biology 1), social studies (Civics and U.S. History), and mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2).

- **National and International Assessments (NAEP, PIRLS, PISA, and TIMSS)**: National and state assessments enable us to know how well students are doing in a variety of subjects at different ages and grade levels. International assessments allow us the unique opportunity to benchmark our students' performance to the performance of students in other countries. Florida participates in several national (NAEP) and international (PIRLS, PISA, TIMSS) criterion-referenced surveys.
The Florida Department of Education declared that the Spring 2015 Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) tests in grades 3-10 English Language Arts (ELA), grades 3-8 Mathematics, as well as Algebra 1 and 2, and Geometry End-of-Course assessments valid. This determination was based upon the findings from Alpine Testing Solutions and edCount’s study.

The writers of the study state that “test scores should not be used as a sole determinant in decisions such as the prevention of advancement to the next grade, graduation eligibility, or placement into a remedial course.” (Final report, August 31, 2015 - http://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/FSA_Final_Report_08312015.pdf)
PTA Position on Assessments & Testing

• PTA believes that valid assessment does not consist of only a single test score, and that at no time should a single test be considered the sole determinant of a student's academic or work future.

• Policy alternatives to social promotion and grade retention must be established.

• PTA supports nationally agreed upon voluntary standards if they are derived by consensus at the state and local levels. Parents must be involved in this process.

• PTA opposes federal legislation and/or regulations that mandate standardized testing or would lead to such testing, as well as federal policies that mandate comparisons of states, school districts, or individual schools and student retention based on a single test or sole criterion and the practice of social promotion.

• Standardized multiple-choice tests and school readiness tests should never be used with preschool and early elementary children for any purpose.
Working together

- Curriculum
- Standards
- Assessments
Challenges Along the way

Dynamic Political Climate

Myths vs. Facts

Mobilized Opposition
Challenges Along the way

- Assessment
- Changes
- Tools
- Materials
- Resources
- Teacher
- Supports
IMPLEMENTATION ALIGNMENT IS CRITICAL

- Curriculum
- Instructional materials
- Assessments
- Professional development
- Pre-service teacher and leader preparation
- Accountability

But this is all separate from the standards!
The 5 Pillars of Successful Implementation of College and Career Ready Standards:

1. Alignment of standards, curriculum and assessments.
2. Adequate professional development for teachers and principals.
3. Sufficient resources and support for each child to meet high standards.
4. Ongoing communication about the importance of standards and accountability.
5. Balanced and comprehensive accountability systems.

http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3552
What’s Ahead: ESSA

• Bipartisan reauthorization of the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)
• Previous version, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, was enacted in 2002
• Shifts balance of power from Federal Government to States
# Moving from No Child Left Behind to Every Student Succeeds Act

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<th>What’s still intact</th>
<th>What’s being left behind</th>
<th>What’s New</th>
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<td>Annual assessments in ELA and math</td>
<td>Adequate Yearly Progress</td>
<td>Standards aligned to college readiness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaggregated student data</td>
<td>Highly Qualified Teacher definition</td>
<td>Innovative assessment pilots</td>
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<td>95% participation</td>
<td>Teacher evaluations w/student achievement</td>
<td>Nonacademic indicator</td>
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- Standards aligned to college readiness
- Innovative assessment pilots
- Nonacademic indicator
- Local- and school-designed intervention

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ESSA: What’s In it For Parents?

- The School District must offer programs and activities to involve parents and family members, and seek meaningful consultation with parents.
- Develop with parents a written parent and family engagement policy
- Build schools’ capacity to engage families
- Evaluate its family engagement policy and practices, with meaningful input from families
- Involve families in the activities of Title I schools
- Reserve at least 1% of its grant to fund parent and family engagement activities; involve parents in deciding how to use these funds; and send 90% of this funding directly to schools.
ALL CHILDREN
ARE OUR CHILDREN
Florida PTA
Transition timeline

SPRING/ SUMMER 2016
- Public hearings and regional meetings.
- Rulemaking process with public comment.

FALL 2016
- U.S. Department of Education reviews comments and makes final regulations.

FALL 2016 – FALL 2017
- States make necessary changes to align policies to ESSA.

FALL 2017
- New state plans in compliance with ESSA will go into effect.
What Parents & Families Can Do
Parent & family support can help students succeed...

• By *staying involved, informed and engaged*, parents can help students be successful.

• There are many ways to help:
  - *Read* with your children;
  - *Review* and discuss their homework;
  - *Communicate* with their teachers;
  - *Attend* public meetings to learn more;
  - *Learn* about the standards and how they affect your child’s education and school; and
  - *Look* through your child’s backpack each afternoon.
More Family Involvement & Engagement Tips

• Establish a daily family routine;
• Monitor out-of-school activities;
• Model the value of learning, self-discipline, and hard work;
• Express high but realistic expectations for achievement;
• Encourage children's development/progress in school; and
• Encourage reading, writing and discussions among family members.
Backpacks: What you should see

Real-world examples that promote what students learn in English and math that make more sense.

Math homework that asks students to write out how they got their answer.

Books that are both fiction and non-fiction.

Writing assignments that require students to use evidence instead of opinion.

Math homework that asks students to use different methods to solve the same problem.
Some questions to ask your child

Did you talk about anything you read in class today? Did you use evidence when you talked about what you read?

Did you learn any new words in class today? What do they mean? How do you spell them?

Tell me something you learned in your reading. How did you learn it?

How did you use math today? Can you show me an example?

What math problems did you do today? How did you get your answer?
Helpful Resources
Resources Available at Your Fingertips

• **FLDOE.org** - Department of Education’s official website

• **Floridastudents.org** - Florida Standards student tutorials

• **JustTake20.org** – Family reading activities

• **JustReadFlorida.com** – Literacy resources

• **FLStandards.org** – Florida Standards resources, Parent Guides *(developed with PTA)* and the “We Can Do This, Florida!” video series

• **fsassessments.org** – FSA Portal

• **CPALMS.org** - Florida standards, course descriptions, and standard resources
More Family Resources

• Be A Learning Hero: http://www.bealearninghero.org/
• Great! Kids Milestones: http://www.greatkids.org/milestones
• Council of the Great City Schools’ Parent Roadmaps & Video: http://www.cgcs.org/Page/244
• Parent Toolkit: http://www.parenttoolkit.com/parenttoolkit.com
• Kahn Academy: https://www.khanacademy.org/
• Homework Help Desk: http://homeworkhelpdesk.org/
Additional PTA Resources

- National PTA website
- Florida PTA website
- Standards
- Assessments
- Assessment Toolkit
- ESSA Resources
For more information contact:

Linda Kearschner
president.elect@floridapta.org