

# Education Standards in Alaska

Presentation to Alaska State Senate  
Education Committee

January 8, 2014

# Alaska State Standards

NEA Alaska is committed to a world-class public education for Alaska's students.

We believe the new Alaska State Standards provide a solid foundation for Alaska's public schools to achieve that vision.

# Alaska State Standards

These standards are a significant component of Alaska's systemic improvement in teaching and learning. They set goals for all Alaska's students, but they alone are not enough.

If they are to fulfill their educational promise, they must be supported by a rich variety of student assessments and continuing professional development for educators.

# Alaska State Standards

Each school district and the state must address the following six areas:

- Trust
- Local Autonomy
- Professional development
- Assessment
- Accountability
- Student opportunity

# Trust

The education climate must be one that fosters

- Trust
- Collaboration
- Shared vision

Alaskans must have a common understanding of the skills and knowledge embedded in these standards.

# Local Autonomy

Although common standards for skill development provide a uniform framework, the new standards continue to permit local school boards to determine curricular content.

Ensuring the professional autonomy and judgment of educators promotes that highest quality of instruction.

# Professional Development

Prior to full implementation of the new standards, educators must have time and resources to

- Reflect
- Develop
- Collaborate
- Model
- Obtain feedback

Policy makers must ensure that Alaska's educators have opportunities to field-test innovative teaching methods.

# Assessment

Assessments are most useful when designed to help teachers improve student learning.

High stakes testing interferes with high quality teaching and learning.

Student testing for purposes other than improving instruction and student learning must be minimized and aligned with standards.



# Accountability

The implementation of new teacher evaluation systems must provide time for educators and school districts to adapt to the increased expectations in the new standards before including reliable student assessment results in teacher evaluations.

# Student Opportunity

The implementation of the new standards should enhance opportunities for students.

These standards can be reached through appropriate and meaningful application in a wide range of content areas to continue to engage students in areas of their interest.