Idaho Content Standards and Students with Disabilities

Helpful Tools for Parents to Better Understand Idaho's Content Standards

What is Common Core/Idaho Content Standards?
• The Common Core is a set of high-quality academic standards in mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy (ELA). These learning goals outline what a student should know and be able to do at the end of each grade.
• All students graduating from Idaho public high schools must meet state-adopted content standards. These standards are to be used as a minimum threshold by every school district in the state in order to establish some consistency in academic content statewide. Each school district may set standards more rigorous than these state content standards, but no district shall use any standards less rigorous than those set forth in (IDAPA 08.02.03.102). It is still up to each local school district to adopt its own curriculum (how the standards are taught) to meet these standards. Idaho reviews and revises, when needed, all content standards on a six year review/adoPTION cycle.

Who are the Idaho Content Standards For?
The ICS's are for all students in kindergarten through twelfth grade in public education, including students with disabilities.

Why do we have these Content Standards?
These guidelines, which all teachers in Idaho's public schools will follow, ensure that students are taught what they need to know and are supposed to know in each grade. They are taught these grade-level standards to help prepare students for college, job, and life.

Will my child who has a disability and requires an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) be held to the same standards as all students?
Students eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - must be challenged to excel in the general curriculum and be prepared for success in their post-school lives. These common standards provide a historic opportunity to improve access to rigorous academic content standards for students with disabilities. In order for students with disabilities to meet these standards and to fully demonstrate their conceptual and procedural knowledge and skills in mathematics, reading, writing, speaking and listening, their instruction must incorporate supports and accommodations, including:
• supports and related services designed to meet the unique needs of these students and to enable their access to general education curriculum (IDEA 34 300.34, 2004).
• an IEP which include annual goals aligned with and chosen to facilitate their attainment of grade-level academic standards.

• Teachers and specialized instructional support personnel who are prepared and qualified to deliver high-quality, evidence-based, individualized instruction and support services.

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How can I advocate for my child and understand how to ensure the Content Standards are included in my child's IEP?

Knowing what your child is supposed to be learning in each grade can make it easier for you to ask questions about goals, where learning will take place and what supports they will need.

Where can I find these standards?

Idaho's Content Standards can be found on the State Department of Education's website http://www.sde.idaho.gov/ under the Idaho Core Standards link. From this link, you can select the content area and grade level to see what your child should be learning. You can also find other resources to help you learn about and understand these standards.

What questions should I ask at my child's IEP meeting?

- Is my child learning and performing at grade level?
- If not, what is the plan to help my child catch up?
- What are behavior goals that will help with my child's learning?
- What strategies, special teaching or technology will my child have access to in order to make sure they are able to learn.
- Who should we go to for help?
- What will my child need to do to get a high school diploma?

General Resources

- Idaho State Department of Education www.sde.idaho.gov
- www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/
- IDEA's Partnership collection of tools and resources www.ideapartnership.org