

What About Other Subjects?

Although the Utah core addresses specific content changes in mathematics and language arts, it also includes specific enhancements in other content areas: science, social studies, fine arts, world languages, health and physical education, career and technical education, etc. In all subject areas, Nebo will continue to focus on what is needed to provide the skills necessary for our students to receive a 21st century education.

Visit the following websites for more information:

<http://www.nebo.edu/core>

<http://www.corestandards.org>

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/core>



Why A New Core?

- Utah core standards will help ensure students are receiving a high quality education consistently from school to school and state to state.
- We need rigorous post-secondary and career-ready standards. Data shows that students need literacy and numeracy skills that will help them be ready to compete in the emerging global marketplace. This expectation is just as important for young people who enroll in occupational certificate programs after high school. Success in these programs and on-the-job training requires the skills and knowledge embedded in the core standards.

How Was the Utah Core Developed?

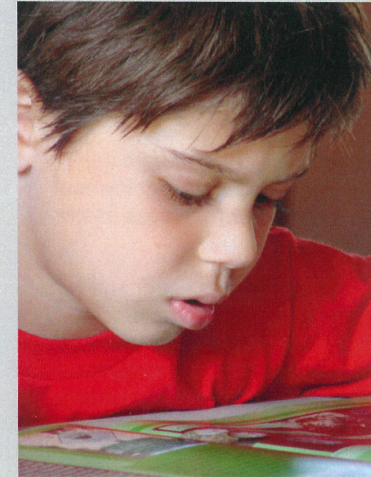
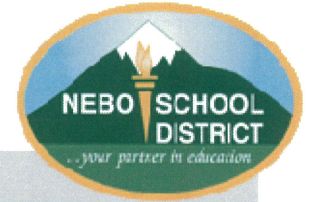
The standards evolved from a carefully researched growing body of evidence.

- This evidence included scholarly research; surveys on what skills are required of students entering college and workforce training programs; assessment data by identifying college and career-ready performance; and comparisons to standards from high-performing states and nations.
- We need college and career-ready standards. Data shows that even in high-performing states, students are graduating and passing all the required tests and still require remediation in their post-secondary work. Students need to move from colleges and universities into the workplace, ready to compete in the emerging global marketplace.

Strengths of the New Core Include:

- Alignment with expectations for college and career success.
- Consistency across all states.
- Both content and application of knowledge through high-order skills.
- Information from other top performing countries so all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society.

Nebo School District



The Utah Core State Standards

The Utah Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

The New Utah Core

Mathematics

- The structure of the new math standards are in line with countries of high mathematical achievement. Thus, this is a transition to “world-class” mathematical instruction for Nebo School District.
- The new standards better prepare all students for post-secondary employment and college and career readiness as they graduate from high school.

By studying topics more in depth and by examining the interrelationship among mathematical concepts, students will be better prepared for the ever increasing skills needed for our rapidly advancing technical economy.

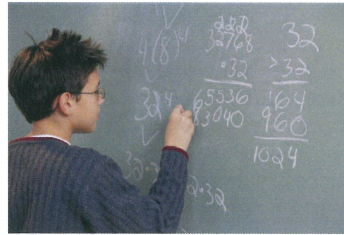
- Third, the new core’s structure allows students more flexibility to accelerate or slowdown their mathematical learning as they progress through their secondary education.

How will Students Transfer to the New Math Utah Core?

- Students in grades 6th and 9th will transition to the new core in the school year 2011-2012.
- Students in K–5th, 7th, and 10th will transition in year 2012-2013.
- Students in 8th and 11th will transition in year 2013-2014.

Courses in middle and high schools’ mathematics will still be differentiated to address the needs of students at varied levels. (See www.nebo.edu/core.)

- Course names have changed in secondary math. Along with additional advanced concepts, students will learn all traditional secondary mathematical topics.
- Courses will be recognized by colleges, universities, and NCAA as preparation for college and scholarships.



Language Arts

Language Arts and Literacy in Social Studies, Science, and Technical subjects are the states’ efforts to ensure that all students are college and career-ready in literacy no later than the end of high school. The K-12th Language Arts standards progress from kindergarten through twelfth grade to meet this goal.

- The college and career readiness standards are the same in grades K through 12th; however, text complexity and skill specificity differ at each level.
- There are three genres of writing (narrative, informative/explanatory, and argument) implemented at each grade level.
- The overall focus of the core is on the depth of comprehension in reading and writing, not on the breadth of information covered.
- Core instruction will be based on thematic content units not on strategies and sub-skills in isolation.
- Students will be assessed through performance tasks, i.e., authentic reading and writing.
- The core does not include scripted lessons. Teachers will use their skills in determining how to teach the concepts.

Comprehensive Balanced Literacy will continue to be part of the curriculum in elementary grades with shared reading, guided reading, and writing blocks.

Language Arts Standards are:

- Aligned with college and work expectations.
- Rigorous in content and application of knowledge through high-order skills.
- Built upon strengths and lessons of current state standards.
- Internationally benchmarked so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society.



How will Students Transfer to the Language Arts Utah Core?

- Students in grades K-5th and 7th–12th will transition to the new core in the school year 2011-2012.
- Sixth grade will transition in year 2012-2013.

