

Questions Parent Ask: What Are Standards and Why Are They Important for My Child?

What Are Standards?

- ! Standards clarify what students should know and be able to do at every grade level. Both the State of California and the San Diego Unified School District have adopted content and performance standards.
- ! Written standards outline all core subject areas such as reading, writing, math, science, and social science
- ! The standards are available to any parent to review. They are at every school office; in many schools, the standards are clearly posted in classrooms.

How Can Standards Help Students Learn?

- ! Written learning expectations give parents, students, and teachers a consistent, clear understanding of what each student should know and be able to do, and by when.
- ! Standards clarify for students the goals they are striving for. This gives parents, students, and teachers a tool for comparing student work to the standard specified.
- ! With standards, learning goals by grade level are the same from school to school.

How Can Parents Use Standards To Improve Students= Education?

- ! When parents are familiar with standards-based education, they are in a better position to assess their child=s academic program and progress.
- ! With standards, teachers can show parents the quality of their student=s performance in various subject areas, in comparison to what is expected.
- ! Standards-based education makes it clearer to parents, students, and teachers when children have and have not achieved the quality or work that is expected for mastery. This makes it easier to work together to help students improve.



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