

Essential Standards Criteria

Endurance: Knowledge and skills of value beyond a single test date. Will the standard be employed exactly as it is in life beyond the school walls? Does it represent how things are really done?

Leverage: Knowledge and skills of value in multiple disciplines. Is the standard transferable and even necessary for learners to access skills and content in other areas or fields?

Readiness: Knowledge and skills necessary for success in the next grade level, the next instruction level, or the state test. Is the standard a building block that other standards are contingent on?

Essential Standards Protocol

Collaborative teams use these criteria to identify seven to twelve or approximately one-third of the state standards per subject or per grade level.

1. Individual teachers decide the absolutely essential standards using the endurance, leverage, and readiness criteria.
2. Teams discuss and reach consensus on the essential standards.
3. Teams consult testing information to determine alignment (test specifications, blueprints, or content limits).
4. Teams record selected standards.
5. Teams check for redundancies and gaps from course to course or grade level to grade level.