

Key Terms

Alaska Cultural Standards

Standards endorsed by the State Board of Education serve to encourage enrichment of the content standards. They are used as a guide to ensure that schools are aware of and sensitive to their surrounding physical and cultural environments.

Alaska State Standards

High academic standards are an important first step in ensuring that all Alaska's students have the tools they need for success. These standards reflect the collaborative work of Alaskan educators and national experts from the nonprofit National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment. Further, they are informed by public comments and Alaska teachers have played a key role in the creation of these standards.

Essential Questions

Essential questions drive the knowledge and skills that students need to know, understand and be able to do in order to succeed in school. The essential questions are determined by unpacking state standards and creating measurable targets.

Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

A guaranteed and viable curriculum (GVC) is one that guarantees equal opportunity for learning for all students. Similarly, it guarantees adequate time for teachers to teach content and for students to learn it. A guaranteed and viable curriculum is one that ensures that the curriculum being taught is the curriculum being assessed. It is viable when adequate time is ensured to teach all determined essential content.

Informational Text

This is text designed to convey factual information rather than tell or advance a narrative. Informational text may employ techniques such as lists, comparing/contrasting or demonstrating cause/effect, and may be accompanied by graphs or charts. Most textbooks consist of primarily informational text.

Ongoing Learner Goals

These are goals that are fostered and reinforced on every suitable occasion. Mastery is not assigned to a specific grade level or course.