

# Why Academic Standards Are Critical to Student Success

For 4 decades, education leaders have rallied around the standards-based reform movement, which is grounded in rigorous academic standards, measuring student progress toward those standards, and implementing accountability measures to bolster progress. But why are standards so critical to improving student outcomes? Read on to learn more.

State-Driven

What are academic standards?

What students should know and be able to do across subjects and grade levels - the End Goal

Example of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Standard

Tell and write time to the nearest minute

State-Driven

District-Driven

Standards are different from the curriculum, which is the day-to-day lessons and activities that a teacher employs to help students meet the standards

Students label parts of a paper clock and practice moving the hands to specific times

Students play a matching game to compare analog and digital clock times




Examples of Lessons to Teach How to Tell Time

District-Driven

## How does the State of Tennessee review and approve standards?

The **State Board of Education** reviews and approves standards in **English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies** at least **every 6 years**

### Goals of the Review Process

-  Promote collaboration
-  Ensure transparency
-  Allow for input throughout

### Current Review

**English/Language Arts Standards** (review process August 2024-February 2026) for roll out in the 2029-30 school year



All other standards (e.g., Music, Career/Tech) are reviewed by the Tennessee Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education

## Why are academic standards so important?

In 2007, Tennessee received an F in "Truth in Advertising" about student proficiency from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce



In 2008, the state launched the Tennessee Diploma Project that set higher expectations for students

In 2013, Tennessee is named the fastest-improving state on the national NAEP assessment



The number of states that outperform TN on NAEP has significantly decreased since 2007

	2007	2022
4th grade reading	32	12
8th grade math	35	19

SOURCES: Tennessee State Board of Education, Tennessee Department of Education, TNSCORE