

## What are Alabama's College- and Career-Ready Standards? Why Does Alabama Need Them?

- Developed by a state-led coalition of education leaders and based on the Common Core State Standards, the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards are K-12 academic standards in mathematics and English/language arts.
- They were designed by the Alabama State Department of Education to best fit Alabama, and adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010 to raise the standards of academic achievement for all Alabama students.
- They were not created or mandated by the federal government.
- They are aligned to the expectations of two-year and four-year colleges, and insure practical preparedness for entering the workforce.
- They are aligned with the national ACT assessments and are critical in preparing Alabama students for college entry exams and Work Key assessments.
- They help ensure that students moving in or out of our state (especially military families) experience consistency of achievement levels no matter where they live.
- They provide a strong, consistent foundation for local systems and teachers to develop innovative and unique curricula, assessments and instruction that best serve local students.
- Teachers are excited about the new standards. They have already implemented the math standards, and are discovering they can spend more time on deeper concepts.
- Students are *learning* rather than just memorizing, so they are truly gaining practical knowledge for life. No one wants to go back to teaching to the test.

**The standards don't tell us what to teach – it's more how we teach. We're able to slow down and really use creative ways to get students thinking deeply and critically. When the kids can think through solutions themselves, they really understand it at a higher level.**

*5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher,  
Crestmont Elementary*



## Alabama's College and Career Ready Standards

*The Foundation for Preparing Students for Real Life*

**Teachers have not only adapted well in the elementary math standards shift, but have been excited about them. They are experiencing kids who used to struggle with math concepts really "get it."**

*5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher,  
Crestmont Elementary*

- **Alabama's standards are NOT a federal intrusion – they are unique to Alabama.**  
The State Board of Education resolved any federal government threat when it adopted the new standards in 2010, and affirmed this authority in 2011. **"The State Board of Education will continue to be the sole and exclusive entity vested with the authority, without restriction, to adopt or revoke all academic standards..."** (SBOE 2010 resolution)
- **Schools in every legislator's district have already spent thousands of hours training teachers and implementing the new standards.**
- **Forcing a change in the standards would create confusion. Students would have to change course – and go backward in their learning.**