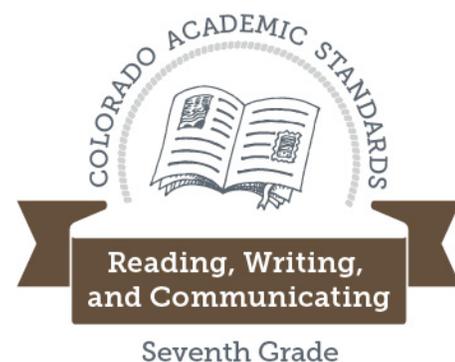


A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for seventh grade reading, writing, and communicating and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this school year.

Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas, emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

Reading, Writing, and Communicating for Middle Schools (6-8)

The reading, writing, and communicating standards at middle and high school grades ask students to be critical readers of complex literary and informational texts. The standards require that students develop the writing skills necessary to convey their experience in the world, to produce thoughtful analyses of academic and real-world topics, and to develop well-reasoned arguments on relevant topics in their lives. The standards foster opportunities for students to work collaboratively with others as they develop the literacy skills to be academically successful and prepared for life after high school.

Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Vince Puzick, Reading, Writing, and Communicating Content Specialist at 303-319-9519, Puzick_v@cde.state.co.us



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At the end of Seventh Grade, students can...



Reading, Writing,
and Communicating

Seventh Grade



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Reading, Writing, and Communicating Learning Expectations for Seventh Grade

Oral Expression and Listening

Speak and use multimedia to present claims and findings while emphasizing major points in a focused, clear manner with strong descriptions, facts, details, and examples; analyze a speaker's main ideas and supporting details and explain how the ideas clarify a topic, text, or issue under study; collaborate in discussions, listen actively, and pose questions.

Reading for All Purposes

Read literary, informational, and persuasive texts from a variety of sources and authors; summarize, analyze, and evaluate different themes, characters, key ideas/events, points of view and claims; analyze multimedia adaptations and fictional vs. historical accounts of an event; analyze the impact word choice and text structure have on meaning; cite several pieces of textual evidence in support of all analyses.

Writing and Composition

Use technology to shape, produce, and publish grammatically correct writing that makes an argument or explains the analysis of a topic; craft writing that includes an introduction, logical development, and a concluding statement; write narratives that develop real or imagined experiences through the use of an engaging opening, narrative techniques that capture the action, and a conclusion that effectively ends the piece.

Research and Reasoning

Conduct short research projects to answer a question and generate additional focus questions; gather information from several sources; use search terms effectively; assess

the credibility of sources; follow a standard format for citation; evaluate the soundness of reasoning and the relevance/sufficiency of evidence.

Throughout the Seventh Grade, you may find students...

- Reading works of literature in order to develop an understanding of the techniques authors use to develop characters, reveal conflict, and express universal themes; doing research to understand how the media uses words and images to influence perceptions and shape behavior around themes and ideas; analyzing how information is structured and delivered in various forms and using that understanding of writer's craft to make informational brochures, write editorials, or produce public service announcement videos.
- Researching and discussing relevant issues, in collaborative groups, in order to write a narrative from the perspective of a child/teenager from another culture; writing personal narratives to convey their own experiences regarding a relevant issue, using imagery and dialogue to develop narrative effects; writing in different genres and using multi-media to share their narratives as an audio or video recording for a class website geared towards raising awareness about relevant teen issues.
- Comparing and contrasting a particular text with a different version of the text (film, television, play); analyzing each medium's portrayal of a subject, explaining the similarities and differences; analyzing and writing an informational essay on the decisions authors and directors make in producing different versions.