

Community Conversation with CDE and Parents: The Standards Review / Revision Process

October 23, 2017 | Together Colorado

Attendees:

- 8 parents of K-12th grade students across DPS

Essential Skills: Parents read through the rubrics for each of the four Essential Skills categories and noted what they liked, questions, concerns and observations for each.

- Overall, parents expressed concerns about how these skills will actually be implemented in schools and whether teachers will get the proper tools and resources to teach them.
- Parents were confused about how these skills are for all grade levels.
- After observing the four Essential Skills categories, two parents noted the absence of overlap between Essential Skills categories. One suggested considering a few universal skills, applicable to more than one category (like self-advocacy which is under professional, but important for all four).

Lingering questions:

- How are districts/schools being equipped to teach/encourage these skills?
- How will these skills be infused with the new standards?
- How will these skills be measured?
- How do they address culturally responsive teaching?

Professional Skills:

- Sub-skills “Information Literacy” and “Use of Information & Communications Technologies” seem duplicative and could be consolidated into one
- Parents liked Task / Time Management and Self-Advocacy, but self-advocacy isn’t just an important skill for the workplace -- it’s also an important Personal Skill

Civic / Interpersonal Skills:

- Under “Civic Engagement,” the rubric descriptors for Strategic Learner and Emerging Expert are the same. Consider scaffolding them to make a clear distinction between the two.
- Consider a “universal obligation” idea -- no man is an island
- Consider adding “Conflict Resolution” category

Entrepreneurial Skills

- Behavior is considered disruptive in many schools that are underperforming

CDE’s Roadmap to CAS Guide: Parents looked at CDE’s *Colorado Academic Standards: A Roadmap to Success* brochure and individually used stickers to indicate what information was helpful and what was confusing. We then shared out and captured the following feedback.

Parents found the following information helpful:

- Overall design of brochures with graphics- great way to keep reader engaged
- Information on the tests students are taking
- Data on the need to update the standards- gives parents an idea of the reality. However, since we are now six years in with the new standards, some of the stats might not be helpful communicating the “why.”

Parents found the following confusing and suggest removing/revising the following:

- Language on Common Core
- Teacher quotes- what’s the purpose?
- Remove or simplify technical phrases/terms, such as “Linear equations”, “Disciplinary literacy”

Parents suggested adding the following:

- Use examples of standards that are easy to understand
- Generally, communicate that standards are for students in grades K-12 in the 13 subject areas
- Make the Essential Skills component pronounced
- Need a component for students with special needs/learning differences
- Add amount of testing time to section on the tests students will take



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