

Prioritizing the Standards

Northeast Education Services Cooperative (NESC) – 2017



A Collaborative Endeavor by NESC Member Educators

The NESC is supporting implementation of the 2017 North Dakota English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Content Standards in K-12 classrooms across the region by responding to the research regarding best practice and to member schools' requests for a *viable curriculum*; a well-articulated set of knowledge and skills that can be taught for understanding in the instructional time available.

A *viable curriculum* can be achieved through the implementation of prioritized standards; a set of 12-20 standards per grade level and content area that are taught to a level of understanding through strategies such as introduction and teaching as new knowledge, practicing and deepening activities, formative and summative assessment, interventions and/or extensions, and reassessment if necessary. Additional time is invested in these standards to ensure as many students as possible reach a level of *understanding*.

Standards that are not prioritized are still taught, however they are not *as important* and are provided limited time for teaching and assessing. Additionally, some non-prioritized standards are implicit in the teaching process and are indirectly addressed through the prioritized standards.

The NESC chose to bring schools together in a collaborative effort to complete the prioritization process, capitalizing on a wide array of content knowledge, instructional strategies and classroom experience. Fifty educators from 61% of NESC-member districts assembled with NESC staff over three days to complete this work. These educators worked in grade-level and content area groups to prioritize the standards according to five criteria: endurance (knowledge and skills valuable beyond a single test date/course/grade level), leverage (knowledge and skills valuable within multiple disciplines), readiness (knowledge and skills that will provide students with tools for success at the next course/grade level), assessment connection (knowledge and skills assessed on an instrument used for instructional decision-making), and teacher judgement (knowledge and skills critical for all students to know or be able to do). The NESC is proud to share the resulting documents, our K-12 ELA and Math Prioritized Standards.

These documents are meant to be a resource or support tool in schools' standards implementation initiatives. Please feel free to modify them to your school's or district's needs. We only ask that you give credit to the NESC educators who contributed their time and expertise by noting an acknowledgement to the "Northeast Education Services Cooperative" on your modified documents.

The NESC schools and staff extend their deepest gratitude to Marzano Research for providing research and guidance throughout this process.

For more information about the prioritization process or the prioritized standards documents please contact the NESC:
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