This document was produced by the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) and the Southwest Comprehensive Center (Region IX) at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU). The New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards contained in this guide are reproduced as they appear in the official New Mexico Standards for Excellence of the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED).

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Acknowledgements

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We thank the following New Mexico Public Education Department Program Managers and Education Administrators for their expertise and involvement with the New Mexico Standards: Claudia Ahlstrom (Mathematics), Holly Bowsher (Physical Education); Vicki Breen (Arts Education); Patricia Concannon (Social Studies and Standards Policy); Dr. Gladys-Herrera-Gurule (State Director, Bilingual Education) and Nadine Padilla (English Language Development Instructional Strategies); Sam Howarth (Special Education Program Manager) and Lisa Chacón-Kedge (Special Education); Diana Jaramillo (Language Arts); John Martínez (Modern Classical and Native Languages); Dr. Kristine Meurer (Health Education Program Manager); Dr. Patricia Parkinson (Assistant Secretary for Instructional Support); Dr. Richard Reif (Science); and Lena Trujillo-Chávez (Career Readiness).

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We thank the following CESDP support staff for their dedication and patience in the preparation and dissemination of the standards documents: Laura Brogdon, Teresa Flores, Frances Mares, and Jean Salazar.
The New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards contained in the Reference Guides are part of the New Mexico Policy on Educational Standards for Excellence that delineate implementation regulations for educational standards and student expectations for New Mexico public schools and students.

The Reference Guides are divided into grade spans K-8 and 9-12 to facilitate use and application.

**Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards** are included for the following content areas:

- **Arts Education**
- **Language Arts**
- **Mathematics**
- **Modern, Classical, and Native Languages**
- **Science**
- **Social Studies**

**Standards and Benchmarks** are included for the following content areas:

- **Career Readiness**
- **Health Education**
- **Physical Education**

**The English Language Development Instructional Strategies** were developed by the NMPED Bilingual Education Unit. They are included as a companion to the Language Arts Standards and are applicable to all content areas.

**The New Mexico Expanded Performance Standards** were developed by the NMPED Special Education Unit. They apply to Special Education students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The **Resource Section** provides links to National Content Area Organizations and Education Research and Resource Organizations that include a wide range of information and tools including samples of student work; standards-based curriculum, assessment, and instruction; cultural and linguistic issues; professional development; and early childhood education.
How to Use this Document

This guide contains *New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards* and is a companion to another grade span publication. The guides are designed with grade spans K-8 and 9-12. The goal is to make them convenient, useful, and manageable in size.

Although the content standards are presented through discrete disciplines and grade spans, each group of standards implies the added value of integrated, interdisciplinary instruction. They intend to illustrate how learners at every level continue to build and expand knowledge as they apply concepts and skills with increasing sophistication, refinement, and independence.

The guide books are designed not simply to be read, but used. You are invited to use the guides as a student; family or community member; educator of children, youth, and adults; board member; or policy maker. You may use the guides as you:

- develop a working knowledge of the standards that can be applied to curriculum, instruction, and assessment;
- look at what will be expected of students at various levels in their schooling;
- commit to developing equity for all students to achieve the standards;
- develop and implement an Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS); and
- communicate with students, peers, parents, education leadership, board members, policy makers, or the public about student expectations.

For more information on implementation of standards through curriculum, instruction and assessment, refer to the resources section or visit www.cesdp.nmhu.edu.
What is Standards-Based Education?

Standards-based education has evolved out of local, state, and national efforts to improve schools and provide equitable opportunities for all students to reach high standards. There is variation in the definition and use of standards-based curriculum, but there are also common elements.

• Fairness and effectiveness are at the heart of the rationale for academic standards.

• Standards provide common language and shared expectations about what ALL students should know and be able to do.

• Standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment support engaging learning activities and materials that foster thinking, creativity, reasoning, analyzing, problem solving, and application of knowledge and skills.

• Standards-based education can lead to awareness of where gaps in student achievement and the educational system may exist.

• Ongoing professional development and support for educators and families are critical in the implementation of effective standards-based systems in our schools.
What are Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards?

The **NM Content Standards** are broad descriptions of knowledge and skills students should acquire in a particular aspect or strand of the subject area.

**Sample:**
- **Strand:** Geometry
- **Mathematics Standard:** Students will understand geometric concepts and applications.

The **NM Benchmarks** are more specific statements of what all students should know and be able to do within a content area across grade levels.

**Sample:**
- **Strand:** Geometry
- **Mathematics Benchmark:** In grades K-4: Use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems.

The **NM Performance Standards** provide additional specificity regarding what students should know and be able to do in order to demonstrate proficiency in the skills and knowledge framed in the content standards and benchmarks. The performance standards focus on specific grade levels in K-12 and/or in grade spans K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Classroom assessments with scoring guides and exemplars are used to define the degree or quality of student performance and how adept or competent a student demonstration must be to indicate attainment of the benchmarks pointing to the content standards.

**Sample Mathematics Performance Standards for Grade 2:**
1. Demonstrate relationships of different attributes with concrete materials
2. Select and use visualization skills to create mental images of geometric shapes
3. Describe geometric shapes and structures from different perspectives
4. Relate geometric ideas to numbers
5. Recognize geometric shapes and structures in the environment and specify their location
Resources
National Content Area Organizations

American Association for the Advancement of Science
Benchmarks for Science Literacy
www.project2061.org/tools/benchol/bolframe.htm
800-451-7559

Center for Civic Education
National Standards for Civics and Government
www.civiced.org/stds.html
818-591-9321

Economics America: National Council on Economic Education
Voluntary National Content Standards
www.ncee.net
800-338-1192

Geography Education Standards Project
Geography for Life:
National Geography Standards
www.nationalgeographic.com/education/xpeditions/standards/matrix.html
412-357-6290

International Reading Association & National Council of Teachers of English
Standards for the English Language Arts
National Council of Teachers of English
www.ncte.org
800-369-6283

International Society for Technology in Education
National Educational Technology Standards
www.cnets.iste.org
800-336-5191

International Technology Education Association
Standards for Technological Literacy:
Content for the Study of Technology
www.iteawww.org/TAA/STLstds.htm
703-860-2100

Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards
National Health Education Standards:
Achieving Health Literacy
Association for the Advancement of Health Education.
www.aahperd.org
800-213-7193
Resources

Music Educators National Conference
The School Music Program: A New Vision (The K-12 National Standards, Pre-K Standards, and What They Mean to Music Educators)
www.menc.org/publication/books/prek12st.html
800-336-3768

National Association for Sport and Physical Education
www.aahperd.org
800-213-7193

National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium
Career Clusters
www.careerclusters.org
800-654-4502

National Committee for Standards in the Arts
National Standards for Arts Education: What Every Young American Should Know and Be Able to Do in the Arts
www.artsedge.Kennedy-center.org/professional_resources/standards
800-336-3768

National Council for the Social Studies
Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies
www.socialstudies.org/standards
301-588-1800

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Principles and Standards for School Mathematics
www.standards.nctm.org
703-620-9840

National Research Council
National Science Education Standards
www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/nses/html
800-624-6242

National Standards in Foreign Language Education Project
Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century
National Standards in Foreign Language Education Project
www.actfl.org
914-963-8830

American Indian Content Standards for Educational Technology in Indian America
American Indian Content Standards
www.ldoe.org/cetia/aics.htm
505-552-6008
## Resources
### Educational Research and Resource Organizations

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu">www.cesdp.nmhu.edu</a></td>
<td>800-247-4269</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>New Mexico Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards Reference Guides</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Performance Assessment</td>
<td><a href="http://www.makingstandardswork.org">www.makingstandardswork.org</a></td>
<td>800-844-6599</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Research on Education, Diversity, and Excellence</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crede.org">www.crede.org</a></td>
<td>831-459-3500</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Five Standards for Effective Pedagogy</em></td>
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<td>Council of Chief State School Officers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ccsso.org">www.ccsso.org</a></td>
<td>202-336-7000</td>
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<td><em>State Content Standards: A 50 State Resource</em></td>
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<td>Dual Language of New Mexico Project</td>
<td><a href="http://www.duallanguagenm.org">www.duallanguagenm.org</a></td>
<td>505-243-0648</td>
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<td><em>NM Dual Language Program Standards</em></td>
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<td>Federal Resource Center for Special Education</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nichcy.org">www.nichcy.org</a></td>
<td>800-695-0285</td>
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<td>Intercultural Development Research Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.idra.org">www.idra.org</a></td>
<td>210-444-1710</td>
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<td>Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mcrel.org">www.mcrel.org</a></td>
<td>303-337-0990</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>A Compendium of K-12 Standards</em></td>
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<td>National Association for Bilingual Education</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nabe.org">www.nabe.org</a></td>
<td>202-898-1829</td>
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<td><em>NABE Teacher Preparation Standards</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Association for the Education of Young Children</td>
<td><a href="http://www.naeyc.org">www.naeyc.org</a></td>
<td>800-424-2460</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation</em></td>
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Resources

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition
www.ncset.org
612-624-2097

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition and Language Instruction Educational Programs
www.ncela.gwu.edu
1-202-245-7100

National Parent-Teacher Association
National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs
www.pta.org
888-425-5537

National Staff Development Council
Standards for Staff Development
www.nsdc.org
513-523-6029

New Mexico Public Education Department
New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards
www.ped.state.nm.us
505-827-5800

Office of English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement for Limited English Proficient Students
www.ed.gov/offices/list/oela/index.html
1-800-321-6223

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory
Connecting State Standards to the Framework of Reading
www.sedl.org
800-476-6861

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
The ESL Standards for Pre-K-12 Students
www.tesol.org/assoc/k12standards
703-836-0774

Secretary’s Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills
What Work Requires of Schools. A SCANS Report for America 2000
www.wdr.doleta.gov/SCANS/whatwork/whatwork.html

US Department of Education
www.ed.gov