

High School English

College and Career Ready

Utah Core State Standards

A Sample Of What Your Child Will Be Doing to Become Ready for College and Career

Reading

- Understanding more from and making fuller use of written materials, including using a wider range of evidence to support an analysis
- Making more connections about how complex ideas interact and develop within a book, essay, or article
- Evaluating arguments and specific claims; assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is sufficient, and as appropriate, detecting inconsistencies and ambiguities
- Analyzing the meaning of foundational U.S. documents

Writing

- Making an argument that is logical, well-reasoned, and supported by evidence
- Writing a literary analysis, report, or summary that develops a central idea and has a coherent focus. Pieces should be well supported with relevant examples, facts, and details
- Conducting research projects that address different aspects of the same topic, using more complex books, articles, and other sources

Speaking and Listening

- Responding thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; synthesizing comments, claims, and evidence made on all sides of an issue. Resolving contradictions when possible
- Making strategic use of digital media (e.g., animations, video, websites, podcasts) to enhance understanding of findings and to add interest

Language

- Determining or clarifying the meaning of words and phrases, choosing flexibly from multiple strategies, such as using context, Greek and Latin roots, patterns of words, and consulting specialized reference materials
- Interpreting figures of speech (e.g., hyperbole, paradox) in context and analyzing their role in the written materials

By implementing the Utah Core Standards, Tooele schools have committed to devoting more time and resources to preparing your child for college and the real world. The rigorous, research-based, and internationally benchmarked standards are designed to:

- Align with the expectations of colleges and the modern workforce
- Build upon states' decades-long efforts to craft high-quality education standards
- Provide a clear understanding of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level
- Give parents and teachers tools to help students stay on the college- and career-ready path

Utah Core/Common Core Links & Information

Here are a few links containing additional information, including details on what each child will be expected to know and do in each grade, as well as tips for parents:

- www.corestandards.org
- www.schools.utah.gov/core
- www.pta.org/parentsguide



Every Student
College and Career
Ready

TOOELE COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

High School English

TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

92 Lodestone Way
Tooele, Utah 84074
Office: 435-833-1900
Fax: 435-833-1912

webmaster@tooeleschools.org

Follow us on

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Frequently Asked Questions

WHEN WILL MY CHILD START LEARNING UNDER THE UTAH CORE STANDARDS?

The Tooele County School District Board of Education approved the following implementation timeline:



Math

- 2011-2012: Grades K-2, 6-8, and 9
- 2012-2013: Grades 3-5, and 10
- 2013-2014: Grade 11

Language Arts

- 2011-2012: Grades K-5, and 7-12
- 2012-2013: Grade 6



HOW WILL THE STANDARDS CHANGE WHAT MY CHILD IS LEARNING?

Utah standards have sometimes been characterized as being “a mile wide and an inch deep”; meaning, many topics are introduced to students without opportunities for in-depth application. The Utah Core Standards focus instruction on critical thinking to better prepare students for real-world challenges. They specify what students need to know and do at each grade level. They allow for deeper instruction, give students more time to master each skill, and introduce each skill in sequence to lead naturally to higher-level thinking and analysis.

WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO TAKE ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY?

Absolutely – starting in kindergarten. Higher-level math concepts are embedded in K-12 instruction. While math courses offered in secondary schools will no longer carry names to which we’ve become accustomed to, such as algebra or geometry, they will expand upon geometric and algebraic concepts students have been learning all along.

WILL THE STANDARDS BE TOO RIGOROUS FOR MY CHILD WHO IS STRUGGLING?

No. Teachers will receive ongoing training and support so they can quickly identify students who need additional attention. The standards are few and more in-depth; therefore, teachers will be better able to prevent students from falling behind.

HOW WILL THE STANDARDS FURTHER MY ADVANCED STUDENT’S PROGRESS?

All Tooele secondary schools will continue to offer Advanced Placement, Concurrent Enrollment, and Honors courses. In elementary school, teachers will receive ongoing training and support to help them tailor instruction to meet the needs of all students and provide greater depth and complexity to advanced learners.

ARE THE STANDARDS A NATIONAL CURRICULUM?

No. The standards specify what students need to know and be able to do at each grade level to become college- and career-ready. They articulate expectations and results, not the manner in which content is taught.



TCSD is committed to providing educational opportunities to students without regard to race, color, sex, national origin or disability. If you have questions, please contact the Title IX Coordinator @ (435) 833-1900.

Tips for Parents Planning for College and Career

At the beginning of high school, sit down with your child’s teachers, counselor, or other advisor to discuss what it will take for your child to graduate, your child’s goals, and his or her plans after high school. Create a plan together to help your child reach these goals, and review it every year to make sure he or she is on track.

This plan should include:

- An appropriate course sequence to meet your child’s goals. For example, if your child wants to study biosciences in college, he or she will likely need additional or advanced math and science courses in high school to be prepared for college-level coursework.
- The most appropriate extracurricular activities for your child. For example, if your child is interested in journalism or photography, encourage him or her to sign up for the school newspaper or yearbook. These activities will help your child expand his or her learning outside of school and may help foster new hobbies or interests.
- Ways you can help your child prepare for college or career. For example, if your child is interested in a particular field, look to see if internships exist to build his or her work experience in that subject area. Look for college fairs to attend, and encourage your child to visit colleges.
- Finding ways to pay for college or advanced training, such as scholarships, grants, work study programs, and student loans. You can start by helping your child fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) during his or her senior year. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for help and more information.

The proceeding was an abridged version of National PTA’s Parents’ Guide to Student Success. Read it in full at www.pta.org/parentsguide

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