



## **Resource 5**

# **Understanding Standards-Based Education**

If you have questions or concerns about student expectations and standards-based education, use the following suggestions and questions as a guide.

### **Ask how you can better understand the New Mexico Content Standards.**

- How do I get a copy of the standards?
- What is my child expected to learn?
- What can I do if my child needs more challenge or support?
- How do I support my child?

### **Ask how your school uses the standards.**

- Who makes decisions about what is taught and how it is taught in this school?
- How do I know how my child is doing in relation to the New Mexico Content Standards?
- How often will my child be tested?
- How will I know the results of the tests my child takes?

### **At the start of the school year, ask about expectations for your child's learning.**

- What do you expect my child to learn this year in reading, math and science?
- What are the most important things for the children in your classroom to learn this year?
- What can I do at home to help my child learn these skills?
- How much time should my child spend on homework each night?
- How can I help with homework?
- What types of writing projects will my child have this year?

### **During the year, follow up on how your child is doing.**

- How is my child's work evaluated using the New Mexico Content Standards?
- Do you use specific criteria (scoring guides, rubrics, etc.) to show progress?  
If so, ask to see these.
- How often is the reporting of progress made to parents?
- How will I know if my child reaches the "proficiency" level that is expected and what is meant by each of the levels?

**To access the New Mexico Content Standards and Benchmarks visit:**

- [www.nmlites.org/standards/index.html](http://www.nmlites.org/standards/index.html)
- [www.cesdp.nmhu.edu](http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu)