



## Resource 10

# Why Standards Are So Important

**New Mexico Content Standards and Benchmarks outline what students should know and be able to do. All states have content standards and state mandated tests are developed around the state standards.**

1. **Demands on students have changed.** The demands on students are higher than ever before. The changing character of society and today's information and technology-based economy are driving new questions about what students should know and be able to do when they leave school.
2. **Schools have changed.** Effective schools produce a different kind of student than they did even 15 years ago. To be successful today, students need to be able to problem-solve, work collaboratively, communicate clearly and think critically.
3. **The bottom line is student achievement.** Everything done in the school should be focused on reaching high levels of achievement for ALL students.
4. **Standards are the road map.** Standards help us identify what it is that students should know and be able to do in each academic subject area and how we know that they have learned it.
5. This requires **new roles and relationships** for all of us. We can no longer afford to practice business as in the past. Principals, parents and particularly teachers, must be accountable for whether students are learning.
6. **Together we can do this.** Schools have improvement plans in place and are making progress every day. Each school has an *Educational Plan for Student Success* (EPSS) which includes goals and strategies for improving student achievement. The EPSS must also include information on how parents and community members are involved in meeting the goals and strategies of the plan. We know that parent involvement is key to student success.

A complete set of the New Mexico Content Standards are available in a reference guide booklet and on line.

**[www.cesdp.nmhu.edu](http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu)**

They are also available on the Public Education Department web site.

**[www.nmlites.org/standards/index.html](http://www.nmlites.org/standards/index.html)**