

ANNUAL NOTICE OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS

RIO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NOTICE OF THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS THAT ARE IN EFFECT FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

What are academic standards?

The District's academic standards identify what students should know and be able to do within a given content area or subject. Standards serve as goals and guideposts for both classroom instruction and student learning. The standards also help parents and students gain a better understanding of the District's expectations for student learning.

Academic standards provide a critical foundation and framework for the District's sequential curriculum plans and for the District's student assessments in each content area. However, the standards are not an actual classroom curriculum. The curriculum that the District's schools implement in the various content areas remains flexible and adaptable, and there are many different instructional techniques and activities that could all be consistent with the District's academic standards. Stated another way, academic standards attempt to identify and focus on the most essential and fundamental aspects of student learning, but they do not attempt to describe all that can or should be taught. A great deal is left to the discretion of curriculum developers and teachers. In addition, the District's adoption and use of academic standards should not be confused with standardized testing of students. While the District implements various state and federal testing mandates and also implements various locally-selected student assessments, the District's academic standards do not mandate the use of any specific standardized test or assessment.

Why does the District have academic standards?

State law requires all school districts, charter schools, and certain private schools to adopt academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history. In addition, the School Board and the District's administrative team believe that identifying and implementing a set of District-wide academic standards in various content areas is highly beneficial to staff, students, and parents.

What are the academic standards that will be in effect during this school year?

State law requires the District to provide the parents and guardians of all enrolled students with notice of the academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history that have been adopted by the School Board and that will be in effect during each school year. Accordingly, the District academic standards that will be in effect in these specific content areas for this school year are listed below. Electronic links to the detailed version of the applicable standards are provided when available. To the extent a parent or guardian would like to review a copy of any of the standards in an alternative format, please contact: Mark McGuire, District Administrator.

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Content Area / Subject	The District's 2015-2016 Student Academic Standards
<p>English Language Arts (includes reading and writing)</p>	<p>The District has adopted the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, as formerly adapted to Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (through the 2014-15 school year). These District standards include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects in grades K–5; • Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects in grades 6–12; • Standards for Literacy in All Subjects for grades K-5; and • Standards for Literacy in All Subjects for grades 6-12 <p>A complete copy of these standards can be located and reviewed at this Internet address: http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/common-core/pdf/ela-stds-app-a-revision.pdf</p> <p>In grades Kindergarten and first grade, the District has also adopted standards-based grading in English Language Arts. In these grades, student report cards reflect a summarized version of the relevant academic standards established for the content area. Copies of the typical report cards applicable to each marking period in each grade can be reviewed by contacting Mr. Craig Vetter.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>The District has adopted the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics, as formerly adapted to Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (through the 2014-15 school year). These District standards include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards for mathematical content • Standards for mathematical practice <p>A complete copy of these standards can be located and reviewed at this Internet address: http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/common-core/pdf/common-core-math-standards.pdf</p> <p>In Kindergarten and first grade, the District has also adopted standards-based grading in Mathematics. In these grades, student report cards reflect a summarized version of the relevant academic standards established for the content area. Copies of the typical report cards applicable to each marking period in each grade can be reviewed by contacting Mr. Craig Vetter, Elementary Principal</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>The District has adopted the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Science. The standards are grouped into eight areas (A through H) and include both content standards and performance standards.</p>

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	<p>A complete copy of these standards can be located and reviewed at this Internet address:</p> <p>http://dpi.wi.gov/science/standards</p>
<p>Social Studies (includes geography and history)</p>	<p>The District has adopted the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies. The five strands of the social studies standards encompass history, geography, behavioral science, economics, and political science.</p> <p>The model standards include both content standards and performance standards.</p> <p>A complete copy of these standards can be located and reviewed at this Internet address:</p> <p>http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal_ss-standards</p>

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact: Mark McGuire, District Administrator.

This notice is issued pursuant to [section 120.12\(13\)](#) of the state statutes.

Adoption Date: August 3, 2015