

COLORADO GLOSSARY TO STANDARDS BASED EDUCATION

September 1994

In all parts of our lives, words and how they are used are important. Even familiar words do not hold the same meaning and significance for everyone. Educators have a tendency to use specialized vocabulary, which can be barriers when communicating with other educators, parents, and community members. Communication gaps appear while misunderstandings multiply.

In an effort to help school and community people communicate better with each other, this short glossary has been created. Because many education terms are also used in everyday life, common definitions are given followed by the more technical educational definitions.

It is hoped that this glossary will be a handy reference when people talk about standards based education. Obviously, there are many of other words which may be confusing, but the following are the ones most commonly associated with school district efforts in standards based education and recent Colorado legislation in this area.

Go To: [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [G](#) [I](#) [M](#) [O](#) [P](#) [R](#) [S](#)

Assessment

common use

A judgment or appraisal.

educational use

1. The method used to collect evidence of what a student knows or is able to do. (HB 93-1313)
2. An opportunity to determine if a student has learned something.
3. A written test or an observation of what the student can do or knows.

Authentic Assessment (See Performance Based Assessment)

Benchmark

common use

1. An important time in one's life.
2. A fixed reference point.

educational use

A standard by which what a student knows and is able to do is checked.

Content Standard

common use

There is no common use.

educational use

A compilation of specific statements of what a student should know or be able to do relative to a particular academic area. (HB 93-1313)

Criteria

common use

A standard by which a judgment is made.

educational use

The guidelines, qualities, characteristics and indicators used to evaluate student work.

Curriculum

common use

Subject matter and courses offered by school.

educational use

1. The subject matter and sequence of learning.
2. Agreement among community members about the knowledge and skills students will have at each grade level.

Demonstration

common use

1. The showing of something.
2. Giving evidence as proof of competency.

educational use

Students doing something with a "real-life" application that shows what they have learned.

Goal

common use

1. A hope or desired end of a race or quest.
2. That which a person strives to achieve.

educational use

1. A broad statement of something desired, generally on a program level and composed of several objectives which are measurable.

Instruction

common use

Teachers teaching.

educational use

The combination of methods, skills and time used to facilitate student learning.

Integrated

common use

Put together or combined into something whole.

educational use

The learning of subjects/disciplines, ideas, and facts together, such as math, music, and science.

Model

common use

1. A representation of a real thing.
2. A miniature facsimile of an object.

educational use

An example that contains essential elements of what is desired.

Objectives

common use

Something a person works toward in order to achieve a goal.

educational use

1. A statement of what students should know or be able to do related to specific learning experiences.
2. Specific measurable descriptions of desired learning results.

Performance Based Assessment

common use

There is no common use.

educational use

1. An evaluation in which "real-life" tasks and practical applications are used.
2. Students showing understanding by demonstrating the use of knowledge and facts.

Performance Level

common use

There is no common use.

Educational use

The level of achievement by a student on an assessment relative to a content standard. The acceptable performance level recommended by the council, pursuant to section 22-53-405 (2), and adopted by the board, pursuant to section 22-53-406 (3), and the acceptable performance level adopted by any district, pursuant to section 22-53-407 (2), shall mean the student has the subject matter knowledge and analytical skills necessary to succeed at subsequent grade levels. For graduating students, such acceptable performance level shall mean that all high school graduates should have for democratic citizenship, responsible adulthood, postsecondary education, and productive careers. (HB 93-1313)

Performance Task

common use

There is no common use.

educational use

An activity through which a student demonstrates knowledge and applies learned skills.

Portfolio

common use

A flat portable case holding a collection of papers or other materials of a person's work and often associated with job-hunting.

educational use

1. A collection of student work used to set improvement goals, show student progress, and demonstrate achievement.
2. A collection of student work used for reporting to parents and other educators.

Programs of Instruction

common use

There is no common use.

educational use

1. A description of the educational experiences and curriculum which will enable students to achieve content standards.
(H B 93-1313)
2. The educational experiences and curriculum which enable students to learn subject matter.

Resource Bank

common use

A supply or stock pile of materials that may be used to provide support.

educational use

A compilation of materials available electronically to support school district efforts in the implementation of standards based education. The resource bank, maintained by the Colorado Department of Education, will include the state model content standards, sample programs of instruction, assessments, and professional educator development materials.

Rubric/Scoring Guide

common use

1. A class or category.
2. A short explanation or commentary.

educational use

1. The characteristics that describe the quality of a product or a level of performance as measured against an established standard.
2. A set of descriptions showing degrees of quality for guiding and assessing student work.

Standards Based Education

common use

There is no common use.

educational use

A system of instruction focused on student learning of content standards. This system aligns programs of instruction and assessment with the content standards.

The implementation of "standards based education" shall not require districts to abandon the use of carnegie units, to abandon a letter grade system, to adopt outcome-based methods of teaching, or to use student portfolios in place of assessment. (HB 93-1313)

In addition, implementation of "standards-based education" shall not require changes in current class schedules and does not encourage block scheduling or other experimental methods of class scheduling. (HB 94-1359)