

Standards vs. Curriculum – Explaining the Difference

Standards

What a child needs to know and do at each grade

Adopted by the Arizona State Board of Education in a public meeting (ARS 15-701.A.1; ARS 15-203.A.12; ARS 15-203.A.13)

Curriculum

How the child is taught, including the materials used to teach

Adopted by local district governing boards in a public meeting (ARS 15-341.A.5; ARS 15-721; ARS 15-722)

For Example:

Standards

From Arizona's 4th grade reading standards:

"Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions). (4.RL.3)"

Curriculum

Includes:

- Specific readings from text books
- Reading lists
- Teacher-designed projects or worksheets

How It Works

