

Power Standards are prioritized standards that are derived from a systematic and balanced approach to distinguishing the standards that are absolutely essential for student success from those that are "nice to know." Power Standards are a subset of the complete list of standards for each grade and for each subject. They represent the "safety net" of standards that each teacher needs to make sure that every student learns prior to leaving the current grade. Students who acquire this "safety net" of knowledge and skills will thus exit one grade better prepared for the next grade.

Once the Power Standards are identified, educators agree to teach these particular standards for depth of student understanding. Curriculum is developed toward that end in each grade level and content area. Meaningful classroom, school, district, and state assessments are aligned to the Power Standards. These assessments provide the evidence of student attainment of the Power Standards, and students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency. The resulting data are systematically collected, examined, reported, and used to improve instruction.