

THE COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS: REAL WORLD SKILLS

The Colorado Academic Standards are more rigorous than Colorado's old standards, focusing on more critical thinking and problem solving, which are the **real world skills** that students need to be successful in their education beyond high school and in the workforce. Here are skills that students are now expected to master:

- **Think critically, reason, and make informed decisions**
 - Today's manufacturing jobs, for example, go far beyond the simple production tasks of the past. Employees must be able to modify and adjust to rapidly changing demands.
- **Communicate verbally and in written form**
 - Colorado's graduates will be able to write technical and informative reports, as well as present key ideas in front of a broad audience, universal skills that cross industries.
- **Reason through the "why" of a process and not just the "how"**
 - In most businesses, the process is as important as the product. Under the new standards, high school graduates will have learned how to think about the process and how they arrived at their answers.
- **Solve problems through reasoning skills**
 - Future employees will be able to deduce solutions for problems ranging from the assembly line to the corporate sales office.
- **Incorporate technology into learning, problem solving, and communicating**
 - Colorado graduates will be able to use technology to find, apply, and present information to co-workers and their communities.
- **Actively listen and engage in discussions**
 - Colorado's students will learn how to collaborate productively and effectively.
- **Use data to make decisions**
 - Data is only as useful as the ability to understand and apply it. Graduates will be able to use data for problem solving and improvement.
- **Self-evaluate performance**
 - Employees will be able to make adjustments for personal growth and increase in effectiveness.
- **Learn, develop, and apply new skill sets**
 - Graduates will learn how to easily acquire and adapt new skill sets, a necessary strength needed by all employers.