FACTSHEET

Terms/Meanings



There are a lot of terms to describe components of a child's education — sometimes they get used interchangably and the meanings are confused or conflated. Standards, for example, are not the same thing as curriculum. This is a simple overview of the key terms that everyone interested in public education should know.

Standards

These are the goals...

What students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.

Curriculum

... this is the means ...

The planned content, materials & resources used by teachers to help students learn.

Assessment

... this is the yardstick.

A measurement of subject mastery. Results help teachers and parents know whether students are ready for what comes next.

Common Core

Standards that set clear guidelines for what students need to know in math and English language arts (includes literacy in science, social studies, and technical subjects).

GLOs

General Learner Outcomes: Six goals that complement curriculum to ensure students become lifelong learners and caring community contributors.

Growth

How much and how fast students are achieving over time.

Smarter Balanced

The assessments used in Hawaii and other states, designed to provide reliable, fair measures of students' progress toward being college & career ready.

Data

Information used during and at the end of learning blocks to target student support, adjust and individualize instruction.

College & Career Ready

The knowledge needed to take advantage of opportunities after high school.