

## Standards with CLOUT

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*The goal of the presentation was to inform educators of the “new” standards that will be in place in the fall of 2007 and which will become the basis for future statewide tests. Teachers and administrators attending felt we were being very supportive by keeping them informed, and this in turn helps sustain success in their buildings and corporations.*

In Indiana, the Core Standards are standards that highlight the “big ideas” of math for each grade level and content area. They integrate multiple Indiana Academic Standards indicators that focus on the most important concepts presented at each grade level and content area. They also outline a manageable number of concepts that all students must understand and of which they must be able to demonstrate proficiency at the end of the year, and they highlight those that are central to each grade and are connected to subsequent grade levels. By analyzing the connections among the manageable lists of concepts in each grade level and content area, teachers have the opportunity to integrate multiple content areas in the classroom.

The Core Standards set challenging and explicit goals for students that delineate which Standards indicators should receive the most instructional time. They also support the development of assessments that focus on the concepts that are central to a grade level or content area rather than individual skills, enabling teachers to assess critical skills in greater depth and to use student responses to guide further instruction.

What are the benefits of the Core Standards to educators and students? Since they integrate rather than select from the Indiana Academic Standards, they are aligned with the state’s assessment system. They will be used during development of future statewide assessments, and so their use in classroom curriculum, instruction, and assessment is encouraged.

There will be three resources available to teachers:

- the statements of the Core Standards themselves, which will encompass various Standards indicators in order to encourage depth in curriculum and instruction as well as assessments that are instructionally supportive;

- instructional strategies, which are possible instructional approaches for each Core Standard; and
- examples of activity ideas for teaching each Core Standard.

It is expected that the Core Standards will be made available to educators in early October, 2007, through the Indiana Department of Education's website ([www.doe.state.in.us](http://www.doe.state.in.us)), with the strategies and examples to follow shortly thereafter.

There was some time at the end of the session for discussion of the Core Standards that were presented on a handout.



Donna McLeish asks, "What are the benefits of the Core Standards to educators and students?"