



Shifting the Focus in Education

Supporting education used to represent the "support" and encouragement of the teaching of facts, skills, knowledge and the passing down of cultural values and identity. Today it appears that supporting "education" has a stronger focus on the "system" of education including the funding system and the process of delivering education rather than the content of knowledge. There is a strong emphasis on teaching to the words of the document known as "standards" without examining if those "standards" are actually tied to facts, figures, and truth. In fact a national think tank rated the Common Core Standards as upper mediocre because they missed their mark in teaching proper skills in math and english. (Fordham Foundation - "State of the State Standards")

There has been a SHIFT to create a new "outcome" of how an "educated" child will look and think through the process known as "Reform Education" aka "Standards Based Education" aka "Performance Based Education" aka "Outcome Based Education". Common Core State Standards is the current trend that is bringing all of America to one common mindset.

There are 3 Stages to the Reform Cycle.

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- 1 *New Standards*
 - 2 *New Assessment*
 - 3 *New Teaching Methods & Materials*

Old Traditional

Focus on Input of Skills. - Each child uses skills to determine his/her future

Math - numbers, symbols, formulas, computation, repetition, correct answers

Reading/Writing - vocabulary, spelling, grammar, punctuation, cursive

History - facts of events, chronological timelines, respect for founding fathers

Science - based on scientific evidence

Shift

New Reform Vision

Focus on outcome of performance to goal of "Responsible and respectful global citizens"
(RCW 28A.150.210)

ALL children will:

understand diversity

use consensus & collaboration

be ready for comm. college or designated career

have the "correct" thinking process on tests

Reform strategies: include constructivism, process of learning, no memorization or repetition, minimal grammar

Reform Cycle in Washington State:

	<u>STANDARDS</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>CHANGES IN BOOKS AND TEACHING METHODS</u>
1993	EALERS/4 Goals	WASL	fuzzy math / process of teaching & learning
2008	new Math standards	EOC/MSP/HSPE	math books change
2010	Common Core standards	SBAC	more fuzzy math/constructivism/no literature/no cursive

NOTE: If the formula $2 + 2 = 4$ and the standards are based on knowledge and formulas, then why do we have to change the test/assessment everytime we change the standard? It could be that the standards do NOT focus on core knowledge.