

Content Standards:

As you know, the adult learners in your state have a variety of learning needs, functioning levels, and goals. Curriculum and instruction in adult education covers a broad spectrum from beginning levels to college preparatory. Therefore, instructors, who often teach multi-level classes, need to understand scope and sequence in multiple content areas. For many years, adult educators relied on commercial textbooks to guide what should be taught. Since many of these texts were not aligned to the standardized tests being used, there was a mismatch between what was being taught and what was being assessed. There were also gaps in the critical skills that adult learners needed in real life.

Content standards fill that gap by describing what learners should know and be able to do. Standards-based education provides a structured approach for state adult education agencies and local programs to create a system that explicitly links standards, assessments, and instructional delivery.

There are two particular resources that can be helpful to you if you are interested in developing or refining content standards for your state:

- The [Content Standards Warehouse](#), supported by DAEL, provides access to materials for developing, aligning, and implementing adult education content standards in the areas of English language acquisition, mathematics, and reading.
- [Content Standards State Samples](#) on the NAEPDC website includes additional examples of state-developed content standards.