



What Are Learning Standards?

Actually there are two types of learning standards —

Content Standards:

What children should know, understand, and be able to do as a result of their schooling . . . and

Performance Standards:

Acceptable levels of student achievement. Basically, performance standards answer the question,

How good is good enough?

Why Are Learning Standards So Important?

New York and most other states are establishing new, higher standards for learning. This is necessary because our world is becoming increasingly complex, and our children must be prepared to compete successfully in today's demanding global society.



How Will My Child Be Affected?

The education our children receive under New York's revised learning standards will be designed to develop their problem-solving abilities, helping them become more independent thinkers. Our children will be better equipped to use their knowledge of all subject areas to solve real-life problems and to handle real work situations.

Our children will also be expected to become competent in the visual and performing arts. To accomplish all this, minimum standards will be raised for all students. The same standards will apply for all students, but the best students will still be challenged to excel in particular areas with options like advanced placement and college-level courses.

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What Parents Should Know About New York State's Learning Standards



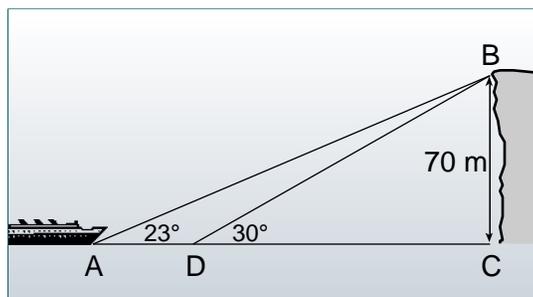
The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Albany, New York 12234

For each grade level, all children will be expected to acquire a working knowledge of each subject, and develop competence in applying that knowledge to meaningful tasks.

Mathematics, Science, and Technology

By the time students graduate from high school, they should be able to determine, with little or no difficulty, correct answers for problems similar to this one :

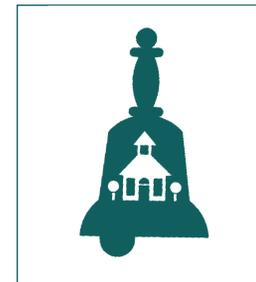
- ❑ A ship is heading directly toward a coastline formed by a 70 meter cliff, BC. At point A the angle of elevation from the ship to the top of the cliff, B, is 23° . In a few minutes, when the ship arrives at point D, the angle of elevation between it and the top of the cliff is 30° . To the nearest meter, find the distances between points:
1) D and C; A and C;
2) A and D, the ship's two positions from which the sightings were taken.



The Arts

After students have completed 7th grade, they should be able to do things like:

- ❑ Mix paints in a range of shades and tints and apply the paint to their works with skill.
- ❑ Perform moderately easy music in a school orchestra, band, or chorus.



English Language Arts

By the time they complete 4th grade, students should be able to do such things as:

- ❑ Write a short report about a topic from science or social studies, using information from at least two different sources.
- ❑ Correctly use and spell words learned in all their areas of study.



Career Development and Occupational Studies

After completing 8th grade, students should be able to:

- ❑ Use a computer to create a graph showing changes in the prices of particular stocks, and explain the basic reasons for these changes.
- ❑ Develop a plan for their work experience, including a budget and equipment requirements.

Social Studies

After they complete 5th grade, children should have sufficient knowledge to:

- ❑ Create timelines showing the correct order of major historical events.
- ❑ Discuss the basic ideals of American democracy, including how they developed and why they are important.

Languages Other Than English

When students are ready to graduate from high school, they should be able to do such things as:

- ❑ Write brief reports, letters, and other short pieces in the language they have studied.
- ❑ Carry on simple conversations in that language.

Health, Physical Education, and Home Economics

At the early elementary level, children should be able to:

- ❑ Recognize unsafe conditions and take appropriate action to reduce personal risk.
- ❑ Participate in games, sports, and exercises that provide conditioning for each fitness area.