

Standards Aligned Systems Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Standards Aligned Systems?

The Pennsylvania Standards Aligned Systems (SAS) is a collaborative product of research and good practice that utilizes six distinct elements (Clear Standards, Fair Assessments, Curriculum Framework, Instruction, Materials & Resources, and Interventions) which if utilized together will provide schools and districts a common framework for continuous school and district enhancement and improvement.

How do I navigate this site?

Left-hand navigation provides easy access to each available subject area. From a subject area's main page, select a concentration area to view its Standards Aligned System. For additional information on the "6 Circles" of SAS, select the About SAS link in the left-hand navigation.

Why has PDE developed the Standards Aligned System?

To provide teachers, parents, and school districts information on ways to enhance and improve educational practices for all students.

What is a Big Idea?

A declarative statement of enduring understandings, for all students at each grade level/course.

What are Concepts?

Information students should know.

What are Competencies?

What students should be able to do.

What is included in the Clear Standards Circle?

Clear, high standards that establish what all students need to know and be able to accomplish.

What is included in the Fair Assessment Circle?

Fair assessments aligned to the standards, which seek to make an overall judgment of progress made at the end of a defined period of instruction.

What is included in the Curriculum Framework Circle?

A framework specifying Big Ideas, Concepts, and Competencies in each subject area, at each grade level.

What is included in the Instruction Circle?

Aligned instruction--aligning instruction with standards involves identifying strategies that are best suited to help students achieve the expected performance.

What is included in the Materials and Resources Circle?

Materials that address the standards

What is included in the Interventions Circle?

A safety net/intervention system that insures all students meet standards.