

Dear Parents,

A team of CUSD teachers and administrators spent the last year researching curricular frameworks in order to dramatically and swiftly increase student achievement. Beyond Textbooks (BT), a framework developed by an Arizona school district (Vail), consistently led the other structures studied. It is currently being used by 106 districts across the state of Arizona and if followed properly should increase student achievement.

The BT curricular framework is completely aligned to the Arizona State Standards and those standards are presented at the required grade level. It creates consistency across grade levels and schools to ensure all Coolidge students have opportunities to master the skills required.

It is rigorous. The level of difficulty may be uncomfortable for a short time as we implement this necessary focus on mastery of the standards rather than a list of assignments completed.

We are confident students, parents, teachers, and community members will be pleased with the students' academic accomplishments and proud of the Coolidge School District.

Commonly asked questions about the BT (Beyond Textbooks) Framework.

What is reteach?

Reteach is not a punishment nor does it mean a student is failing a class or subject. Reteach means your child scored less than 80% on a weekly assessment and needs additional time to master the standard(s). Scoring below 80% means your child's work is not yet meeting the grade level standards. Reteach is the opportunity for academic intervention for those students who are struggling to master the targeted standard(s). It also allows a student to experience a different approach to mastering a skill. It is designed to provide opportunities for student success.

What is mastery?

Mastery means having an understanding of the standard(s) taught and assessed. Mastery is scoring 80% or higher on a weekly test of about 5 questions covering one skill (standard) in various curricular areas including English, writing, reading, math, and/or science.

What is enrichment?

When a student demonstrates mastery, having correctly answered 80% of the questions, they are placed into an enrichment group. This group meets to further develop their skills. Teachers expand on standards for students who have demonstrated mastery. The lessons reflect higher order thinking, application, connection and extension of the targeted standard(s).

Some students may be more successful with specific skills than others and that allows them the opportunity to move between reteach and enrichment weekly.

How does it affect my child's grades?

BT is closely aligned to student mastery of standards and performance. You may see a difference in your child's grades as they reach for higher expectations. Your child's progress on specific standards is being monitored closely. Goal is for students to demonstrate mastery of each standard adopted by the state rather than receiving a letter grade.

How can I help?

Keep in touch with your child's teacher. Stay involved.

- Visit our Coolidge website and find Parent Reference Handbooks that give you specific information on the standards and skills being taught for the quarter.
- Attend our Academic Parent Teacher Team Meetings (APTT) at the elementary level and Parent Teacher Conferences at the Middle and High School Levels.
- Monitor your child's progress on PowerSchool.

What if I have more questions?

If you have more questions, contact your child's teacher or administrator.

Coolidge Unified School District is committed to supporting and assisting each child to achieve at a high level because we believe our kids deserve the best and we appreciate your continued support.