



## MESSAGE FROM MK – March 2004

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education  
mkmoen@nsn.k12.nv.us, 775.687.9167*

The Division of Adult Education and Literacy at the United States Department of Education is pressing states to develop content standards for adult basic education. Content standards are defined in numerous ways by various entities, but one of the simplest and most easily understood is: clear benchmarks of what students should know

and be able to do at specific points as they move through the educational spectrum. Standards provide a clear sequence of learning activities leading to high school completion and readiness for college; they guide the teaching and learning process from adult basic education and English as a second language through high school completion and beyond.

**CONTENT  
STANDARDS**

If assessment, content, and instruction are aligned, the assumption is that student achievement will improve. It also ensures that states can accurately assess student learning, an increasingly important component when accountability is paramount and reports to funding sources are required.

Nevada utilizes CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) to assess student progress and to inform instruction. Basic skills are embedded in each CASAS competency and are taught in contexts that are relevant and critical to the lives of adult learners.

Nevada is currently involved with other states in the process of developing content standards for adult basic education. The CASAS Consortium is developing frameworks that show how content standards are addressed in adult education classes. These standards are being paired with selected CASAS assessments that measure mastery of the applied content. The results will show how each standard is supported by CASAS competencies and contextual instruction and how each standard is measured through assessments focusing on the domains of family, work, and community.

**CASAS competencies are  
content standards  
in context.**