Quality Standards Checklist

The Quality Standards Checklist was created by the content standards work groups to guide revisions and to provide justifications for any changes made to the standards. The checklist identifies the key features of a quality standard and three rules to support the standards revision process.

Sample justifications for making changes:
- Improving clarity: Clarified language or removed ambiguous or vague language
- Adding critical content & skill: added critical content or …
- Making connections within grades and across grades
- Removing teacher actions

Key Features of a Quality Standard

Standards Do…	Standards Do NOT…
Quality Standard Rule # 1: Identify key knowledge and skills that students should demonstrate by the end of the year	• Focus on teacher actions or what teachers should do to teach that content • Require specific instructional strategies, approaches, curricula or text to be used • Omit critical content
Quality Standard Rule # 2: Connect learning within and across grades levels or course.	• Include unnecessary repetitive standards • Create contradictions within a grade or within standards in other grades • Create gaps in the progression of learning within and across grades or courses
Quality Standard Rule # 3: Use clear language that clarifies for all stakeholders what students should be able to know and do at the end of a particular grade or course. *Keep in mind language in some standards may require more specificity than other standards.	• Use ambiguous or vague language