

Old Capitol Building
PO Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

k12.wa.us



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

September 28, 2023

() Action Required
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 065-23 Secondary Education and Pathway Preparation

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Managers
School District Curriculum Directors

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Learning Standards Review Update

CONTACT: Kara Todd, Special Projects and Assessment Coordinator
(360) 725-4979, standards.review@k12.wa.us

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

This bulletin provides an update to the information about the learning standards review project addressed by Superintendent Reykdal's letter dated February 14, 2023, to district superintendents.

State law (RCW 28A.655.070) charges the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) with periodically reviewing the Washington State Learning Standards (WSLS) and making revisions and prioritizations as needed. It has been over a decade since this review has been completed for several content areas. OSPI has begun with reviews of the English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science learning standards. The current timeline anticipates Superintendent approval in 2024, with transitional support to districts starting in 2025 with implementation in classrooms expected in 2026 for these three content areas. The projected review timeline is included as an attachment to this bulletin.

Progress to Date

In January and February, OSPI used teacher certification records to develop a list-serve of teachers likely to have responsibility for teaching math, science, and/or ELA, for the purposes of an educator feedback survey. OSPI also distributed a survey to district administrators with curriculum and teaching responsibility for these content areas. OSPI Project leads set up a

series of focus group meetings with interested district administrators to learn more about their views of the current learning standards and their insights about what a review process might accomplish.

Some general themes emerged from these surveys and conversations:

- Many educators feel there are too many standards to teach effectively in the time provided. Standards need to be streamlined, clarified, prioritized, and organized in meaningful ways.
- Changes and the time allocated to make them must be responsive to teacher, principal, and district administrator capacity, as well as districts' past, present, and planned work that may be impacted (e.g., curriculum adoptions).
- Resources for meaningful content integration, as well as guidance that clarifies opportunities for universal design for learning, social emotional learning, cultural responsiveness, and support for multilingual learners, would be helpful.
- Professional learning opportunities related to the standards updates will be essential and should occur in a variety of formats.
- Once the reviews are complete, educators would find a "what has changed" document to be invaluable.

With the themes above in mind, content teams have begun the review process, developing prototypes for select grade levels. Groups of educators will be convened to provide iterative feedback over the course of the next year.

Resources and Updates

The [Learning Standards Review website](#) now includes updates on the current status of the reviews for math, science, and ELA. These documents are attached to this bulletin.

OSPI is being intentional in addressing supports for all students during the review process, with an emphasis on students furthest from educational justice. The updated Washington standards will include support for learning design with content integration, Universal Design for Learning, language development, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive teaching, and more. Each set of updated standards will be accompanied by resources and professional learning for districts, schools, and educators. This may include live and recorded webinars, recorded mini-lessons, ESD-hosted professional learning, supporting documents, and other resources.

Local education agencies will not be required to adopt new curricula aligned to the updated learning standards. Once approved, OSPI will release resources as necessary to help educators understand key concepts in the updated standards. This will include suggestions about how these key concepts can be incorporated into existing curricula and how they might already show up in them. Districts should continue to follow policies related to their local curriculum review and adoption process.

OSPI will include any information about implications for the state assessments through future updates, and in professional learning and transition support materials about the updated standards. Any changes to state tests will not affect student scores before spring 2028.

The Learning Standards Review team will provide office hours for questions on Tuesday, October 10th, from 4:00–5:00 pm, and on Wednesday, October 11th, from 9:00–10:00 am. Please use this Zoom link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3834204143>.

In addition, questions may be sent to the Learning Standards Review Team, at standards.review@k12.wa.us at any time.

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Kara Todd, Special Projects and Assessment Coordinator, at 360-725-4979 or email standards.review@k12.wa.us. The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631.

This bulletin is also available on the [Bulletins](#) page of the OSPI website.

Michaela W. Miller, Ed.D., NBCT
Deputy Superintendent

Rebecca Wallace
Assistant Superintendent
Secondary Education and Pathway Preparation

Jon Mishra
Assistant Superintendent
Elementary, Early Learning, and Federal Programs

Deb Came
Assistant Superintendent
Assessment and Student Information

CR:sa

Attachment(s): Washington Learning Standards Review Timeline
OSPI Learning Standards Review: ELA Update (9.26.23)
OSPI Learning Standards Review: Mathematics Update (9.26.23)
OSPI Learning Standards Review: Science Update (9.26.23)

BULLETIN NO. 065-23 SEPP

September 28, 2023

Page 4

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162/TTY: 360-664-3631; or P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200; or equity@k12.wa.us.