

# *Learning Standards Public Comment*

## **Learning Standards Overall Updates**

The K–12 learning standards for English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science have all been revised to include updates to content, provide clarity in the standards language and include prioritized standards to reflect the universal learning that should be the foundation for every learner in our K–12 system. By identifying prioritized standards, we can ensure educational equity across the state. In every classroom and learning experience, all students will have access to develop proficiency/competency on the same learning standards as part of Tier 1 instruction, interventions and supports.

The learning standards revisions and updates are based on the currently used Common Core State Standards for mathematics and ELA, and the Next Generation Science Standards for science. The standards will have accompanying supporting documents upon their official adoption later this year. This includes family/caregiver guides, unpacking documents, and support for implementation of the learning standards. Professional learning opportunities for educators will also be provided through multiple partnerships to support the implementation of the updated learning standards.

## **Mathematics Update**

The Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for Mathematics have been revised to maintain the core structure of the Common Core State Standards while enhancing clarity to support local contexts. These revisions aim to support student learning, integrate data science across all grade levels, and emphasize flexibility, efficiency, and accuracy in mathematical fluency. The updated standards encourage students to consider multiple approaches to problem-solving and communicate their thinking, promoting deeper understanding and engagement with mathematical concepts.

Key changes include the introduction of data science standards to foster data literacy in early grades and to create and critically examine data in later grades, and a shift in approach to focus on flexible, efficient, and accurate problem-solving strategies rather than rote memorization. The revised standards also clarify high school mathematics requirements, specifying content for the first two credits, and supporting alignment to a student's High School and Beyond Plan for their third credit. These updates are designed to enhance the depth of student understanding of mathematics from multiple perspectives, preparing students for a data-driven world and ensuring a robust foundation for future learning.

## **Science Update**

The Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for Science document outlines an enhanced framework that integrates the existing NGSS K–12 standards with new priority standards and



Environment and Sustainability Standards (ESE). Priority standards define the core concepts for each science domain, ensuring comprehensive student learning across all content areas. Supporting standards, from the NGSS, serve as benchmarks to guide instructional design and assess progress towards these core ideas. This structured approach allows educators to build lessons that align with the broader priority standards, providing a clear pathway for student achievement.

Additionally, the revised standards introduce specialized tags to focus on climate science, engineering, and environmental sustainability. Standards marked with the [Climate] tag address the interplay between Earth Systems and human activities, while those with the [Engineering] tag emphasize key engineering concepts, though integration across other standards is encouraged. The [ESE] tag signifies standards that blend science with social studies to address local and global environmental issues, fostering real-world problem-solving skills. Throughout their science education, students are expected to engage with all Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs) and Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs), promoting a holistic and integrative approach to learning.

## English Language Arts Update

Since Washington state adopted the English Language Arts (ELA) Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2011, literacy expectations have evolved as students encounter new genres, media, and technologies. Therefore, the updated Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for ELA welcome media literacy and digital citizenship into the ELA classroom, emphasizing critical thinking and process-oriented learning. Revisions also reflect current research, prioritize relevance, enhance rigor, and make standards more user-friendly by reducing repetition.

To address communication in a digital age, new media literacy standards lead students to think critically about media messages and information sources, preparing them to make informed decisions about how they will participate in the information ecosystem. Standards for research have been moved next to media literacy standards, reflecting the need to evaluate the accuracy of information and credibility of information sources during research.

To reduce repetition, reading standards for literary and informational texts have been combined. To better reflect research on the range of skills involved in early reading development, standards related to comprehension, evaluation, and use of texts have been added. Based on research indicating that foundational skills develop in concert with other reading skills, not sequentially, foundational skills have been moved into a unified *Reading* strand.

To better reflect real-world communication, the revised writing standards expand beyond narrative, informational, and argumentative text types to encompass a broader range of genres. To highlight the potential effects of permanence when students publish or participate in online forums, digital citizenship has been introduced into the writing standards and speaking and listening standards. Finally, revised language standards better support dual language settings and structured literacy practices. Overall, these revisions better prepare students for academic and everyday communication.