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Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**  
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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**BULLETIN NO. 003-25 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, EARLY LEARNING, AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS/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:** Update to Learning Standards Revision

**CONTACT:** Angela Allen, Associate Director of Learning Standards  
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## **PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

Learning standards define what all students need to know and be able to do at each grade level. As required by state law ([RCW 28A.655.070](#)), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) develops and periodically revises the state's learning standards based on the student learning goals in [RCW 28A.150.210](#). This bulletin provides updated information to previous notifications regarding the learning standards revision process including Bulletins [NO. 053-24](#), [NO. 019-24](#), [NO. 008-24](#), and [NO. 065-23](#). The goal of the revision project is to establish a regular and predictable review process, identify priority standards, simplify standards for better understanding and alignment, and updated content as needed. Since the initial creation of state learning standards in the 1990's, our superintendent's required updates have primarily been based on research and technology, emerging content, and modernized context. This is consistent with our current revisions including media literacy and digital citizenship in English language arts (ELA) and data science and mathematics content areas.

Based upon feedback, OSPI has revised the learning standards adoption timeline to better align with school year calendars, with expanded information to support district planning and implementation efforts.

## PROJECT PROGRESS

The learning standards revision is an adaptive project that relies on valuable feedback from our education community and vested stakeholders. With deep appreciation to the individuals, commissions, and professional organizations that have engaged in this project. As a result of the engagement process, we've made some important revisions to better serve our districts, educators, students and families. We believe these decisions will honor the incredible work completed to date and are responsive to those that will be most significantly impacted by these changes.

### Expanding the State Standards Revision Process

OSPI is incorporating an initial adoption stage into our learning standards revision process. Adding an additional adoption stage to this process is beneficial to our system in aligning to our professional development funding request, local adoption of curriculum and instructional materials, and assessing future needs for district's training and resources. Once the Superintendent completes initial adoption, the updated standards will be shared enabling districts to begin implementation efforts while providing additional opportunity for feedback and revision directly from district and classroom use. Feedback will be used to inform state and local professional learning plans. This process will be particularly important with the addition of the new content areas, data science and media literacy and digital citizenship. Any changes to the assessment system as a result of standards revision will come after final adoption of the state standards, with summative statewide assessments expected to be phased in fully by the 2029–30 school year. Our primary focus will be assisting district transition and implementation efforts through professional learning and quality supporting resources.

### Updates to the Revision Timeline

The updated review and revision timeline projects updated ELA standards achieving initial adoption in the first quarter of 2025, followed by mathematics, and then financial education; with science being moved to the next revision phase. This staggered approach aims to minimize the impact on districts' core instructional changes, provides more focused time for adopting and adapting the instructional methodologies used to ensure Tier 1 instructional access for all students, and differentiates the need for any potential changes to the state summative assessments, as requested. The modifications of new content to ELA and mathematics, media literacy and digital citizenship and data science, are changes that reflect the need for modernization of core instruction. Our goal is to ensure a smoother transition and more manageable implementation process, reducing stress and reinforcing the critical importance of time and support in implementing systems change.

Following initial adoption, OSPI will collect feedback from educators. We do not anticipate significant content changes to the standards but expect feedback to help refine and clarify them while informing needed resources to support statewide transition. The Superintendent will then adopt the standards in final form. Districts have flexibility in deciding when to begin

transitioning to the new standards, but the updated ELA, mathematics, and financial education standards are expected to be fully implemented in all schools by the 2026–27 school year. Please view the attached updated Washington Learning Standards Review Timeline and expanded ELA and Mathematics Revision Cycle.

## Additional Updates to the Project

The revised standards will follow consistent formatting using a common nomenclature and numbering structure across all content areas with clear identification of priority standards. This approach will be consistent across all future revisions and adoptions to learning standards across all content areas.

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Angela Allen, Associate Director of Learning Standards, at 564-233-9627 or Kara Todd, Special Projects and Assessment Coordinator, at 360-725-4979 or email [standards.review@k12.wa.us](mailto:standards.review@k12.wa.us). The OSPI TTY number is 360-664-3631. See more on the [Learning Standards Review webpage](#).

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

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Attachment(s): ELA and Mathematics Revision Cycle  
Washington Learning Standards Review Timeline

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