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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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BULLETIN NO. 006-26 TEACHING, LEARNING, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Initial Adoption of Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for English
Language Arts

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 goal for districts in the Basic Education Act [RCW 28A.150.210](#). This bulletin provides updated information to previous notifications regarding the learning standards revision process, most recently Bulletin [057-25](#). The goal of the revision project is to establish a regular and predictable review process, simplify standards for better understanding and alignment, and update content as needed. Since the initial creation of state learning standards in the 1990s, these updates reflect research and technology, emerging content, and modernized context.

The [timeline for the review and revision cycle for all the Washington State K–12 Learning Standards](#) is available on OSPI's website.

INITIAL ADOPTION OF LEARNING STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Learning Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) help students develop skills such as writing, spelling, having in-person discussions, and understanding a variety of texts. The standards have been updated to reflect current research about literacy and to prepare students for the realities of 21st century communication by helping them become skilled, knowledgeable decision-makers.

The Learning Standards for ELA are in the initial adoption phase of the learning standards revision process, and [the updated standards have been published to OSPI's website](#). School districts and teachers can begin implementation efforts of the initial standards at their own pace and are encouraged to provide feedback and revision suggestions based on district and classroom use. During the initial adoption phase, feedback can be provided to OSPI via the [Initial Adoption ELA Feedback Survey](#). The feedback collected during this phase will be used to inform additional revisions prior to final adoption. Feedback will also be used to inform state technical support and implementation guidance. The initial adoption survey will be available from March 12–May 3, 2026.

Changes to the state assessment system because of standards revision will take place after the final adoption of the state standards, with summative statewide assessments expected to be phased in fully by the 2029–30 school year. OSPI's primary focus will be assisting school district transition and implementation efforts through technical support, professional learning and quality supporting resources.

Final adoption of the Learning Standards for ELA can be expected before the start of the 2026–27 school year. Once adopted in final form, school districts will have the full 2026–27 school year to begin using and implementing the learning standards before the standards are required to be taught in the 2027–28 school year.

Learning Standards Documents and Resources

As part of the initial adoption of the ELA learning standards, the following files will be available on the [Learning Standards Review webpage](#):

- A document with the K–12 Learning Standards for ELA in grade level order, available as a Word document and as a PDF.
- A brief handout describing the overarching changes in the standards, *What's New in the K–12 Learning Standards for English Language Arts*.
- A document detailing the changes in the standards that can be used to support professional learning with educators, *Key Shift in the K–12 Learning Standards for English Language Arts*.
- Coming Soon: An Excel Workbook of the K–12 Learning Standards for ELA with multiple

tabs. The workbook includes a tab with all K–12 standards in grade level order, sortable by standard and grade level; a tab with a crosswalk to the previous Common Core State Standards (CCSS), sortable by CCSS standard and grade level; and a glossary. The workbook also includes spaces for future connection with other content standards that will be published as they become available.

For additional information about updates to the Learning Standards Project, including timelines and opportunities for educator feedback, please visit the [Learning Standards Review webpage](#).

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. The OSPI [Telecommunication Relay Services](#) number is 711 or 1-800-833-6384.

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

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