What's New in the K–12 Learning Standards for Mathematics

The Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for Mathematics (WA Math 2026) help students develop the skills necessary for analyzing and assessing data, emphasize flexible problem-solving skills, and encourage deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of math concepts.

To address student skills in data science and data literacy:

- New data science standards combine mathematics, information science, and computer science to help students ask questions, collect and analyze data, and interpret results.
- New standards focus on fostering creativity and critical thinking, allowing students of all ages to engage in data inquiries, from basic statistical questions in early grades to more complex analysis at higher levels.
- Data science standards are written to be used in real-world applications across subjects.

To support the connection of the standards:

- The standards are reorganized into four groups of related concepts **(domains)** across all grades, which supports the development of the skills needed to: analyze data **(Data Analysis)**, reason with quantities **(Quantity)**, understand real-world patterns **(Relationships)**, and explore spatial relationships **(Spatial Reasoning)**.
- This reorganization moves away from isolated math concepts and emphasizes interconnectedness to foster deeper conceptual understanding and flexible problem-solving skills.

To better define mathematical fluency:

- Research shows that mathematical fluency is not just about being fast or memorizing basic facts.
- Students are fluent when they can choose strategies that make sense for the problem, adjust those strategies when needed, and use them to get correct answers.
- Because of this, the term "fluency" in the standards has been updated to "efficiently, flexibly, and accurately" to better reflect what true fluency means.

In addition, the revised WA Math 2026 provide prioritization, consistency, and flexibility for educators, including:

- Prioritized standards that identify a universal set of standards that all students should have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate.
- Consistent formatting of documents for all content areas. Standards look similar and have Microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheet versions for user flexibility.
- Consistent standards coding and naming systems that are similar across all content areas to support usability.