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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

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BULLETIN NO. 026-26 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: Formal Adoption of Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for English
Language Arts

CONTACT: Angela Allen, Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness
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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 No. [023-26](#). 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.](#)

FORMAL ADOPTION OF LEARNING STANDARDS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The formal adoption of the Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) represents more than three years of review, revision, and feedback. Input from educators, families, and partners has helped shape the revised standards. The Washington State K–12 Learning Standards for ELA support students to develop skills in reading, 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 through the inclusion of medial literacy and digital citizenship.

The K–12 Learning Standards for ELA are intended to be used by districts for implementation, alignment of instructional materials, and school and districtwide collaboration throughout the 2026–27 school year. The standards are required to be implemented for every student in the 2027–28 school year.

Any updates or changes to the Smarter Balanced Assessment will be implemented for the Spring 2030 administration.

Learning Standards Documents and Resources

As part of the formal adoption of the ELA learning standards, the following files will be available on the [Washington State English Language Arts Learning Standards webpage](#):

- A document with the K–12 learning standards for ELA in grade level order, available in Word and PDF formats.
- 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*.
- 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 Common Core State Standards (CCSS), sortable by CCSS standard and grade level; and a glossary. The workbook also includes connections to the WIDA English Language Development Standards and connections to Smarter Balanced Focused Interim Block Assessments. Additional columns will align future connections with other content standards that will be published as they become available.

For additional information about updates to the learning standards, including timelines and

opportunities for educator feedback, please visit the [Washington State Learning Standards Review webpage](#).

INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Angela Allen, Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness, 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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