

OSPI Learning Standards Review

English Language Arts

Background/Purpose

According to RCW 28A.655.070, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will periodically revise the state learning standards. In the fall of 2022, OSPI started to review English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science learning standards. OSPI anticipates review and approval in 2024, with transitional support to districts starting in 2025 and implementation in classrooms anticipated in 2026.

OSPI is intentionally addressing supports for all students during the review process, with an emphasis on students furthest from educational justice. The updated Washington Common Core State Standards (CCSS) standards will include support for learning design with content integration, universal design for learning, language development, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive teaching, and more.

Update: Since the release of the September 26th Bulletin proposing new Washington ELA standards based on the National Council for Teachers of English standards, the implementation of this plan has been put on hold. In order for a successful implementation of new standards and to provide districts an extended timeline, OSPI will continue to utilize the CCSS standards with amendments to support educators. (The *ELA Update* document dated September 26, 2023, has been removed from OSPI's website to prevent confusion.)

English Language Arts (ELA)

- 1) The ELA CCSS from 2011 will be updated for Washington in 2024 by the inclusion of media literacy, digital citizenship and English language development. The updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024) standards will contain the following strands:
 - Reading
 - a) Literary & Informational
 - b) Foundational Skills
 - Writing
 - Speaking, Listening, and Digital Forums
 - Language
 - Research and Media Literacy
- 2) The Washington ELA CCSS (2024) will include the following updates in addition to the revised strands:
 - Streamline existing strands and standards to remove redundancy and clarify language.
 - Update existing standards to reflect current research and seamlessly integrate skills that are the foundation for Media Literacy and Digital Citizenship.
 - Identify priority standards at each grade level or band to support instruction.



- Create a priority anchor standard for each strand that captures the “big picture” of literacy activities and gives focus to all standards in the strand.
- 3) The release of the updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024) standards will be accompanied by professional learning and transition support for districts, schools, and educators.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What support will be available for educators to implement the updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024) and the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Development (ELD) standards together in their classrooms?

A: The updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024) build on students’ background knowledge, interests, and cultural assets as they develop as readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and critical thinkers. ELA and Multilingual Education are collaborating to create documents such as crosswalks, considerations for instructional strategies, and FAQs to support educators as they braid content and language development standards in their language arts classes.

Q: How will the updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024) prepare students for secondary pathways, careers, civic engagement, and their personal lives?

A: The ways in which students encounter and interact with information have changed dramatically in recent years and will continue to evolve as new technologies emerge and society shifts in response. Students need to build skills that enable them to thrive as critical and curious creators and consumers of many different types of texts and means of communication that are relevant to their situations.

The inclusion of media literacy and digital citizenship will help address these needs. While the updated Washington CCSS (2024) will add new, dedicated media literacy and digital citizenship standards, many skills that are foundational to media literacy and digital citizenship already show up in many ELA classrooms. To build on this, concepts such as “audience experience” that are foundational to media literacy and digital citizenship will be embedded in existing, revised standards. This will not only strengthen existing standards, but also help to address the challenges students face in creating and consuming texts and information.

Q: Will districts need to adopt new curricula aligned to the updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024)?

A: No. OSPI will release resources to help educators understand key concepts in the updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024), as well as suggest how these key concepts can be incorporated into existing curricula and how they might already show up in them. Districts should continue to follow policies related to their local curriculum review and adoption process.

Q: Will the ELA state summative assessment change?

A: Any changes to the ELA state test will not count towards student scores until spring 2028 at the earliest. OSPI will include information about any changes to the ELA state test in professional learning and transition support materials about the updated Washington ELA CCSS (2024) standards.

Standards Review Team Contact

Standards Review Team standards.review@k12.wa.us