

# Notice of Academic Standards

## What are academic standards?

The District's academic standards identify what students should know and be able to do within a given content area or subject. Standards serve as goals and guideposts for both classroom instruction and student learning. The standards also help parents and students gain a better understanding of the District's expectations for student learning.

Academic standards provide a critical foundation and framework for the District's sequential curriculum plans and for the District's student assessments in each content area. The District reviews Wisconsin state standards, other state's standards, and professional organization standards as it develops local standards for the District; the District develops standards locally to support our students' learning. The standards are not an actual classroom curriculum. The curriculum that the District's schools implement in the various content areas remains flexible and adaptable, and there are many different instructional techniques and activities that could all be consistent with the District's academic standards.

Stated another way, academic standards attempt to identify and focus on the most essential and fundamental aspects of student learning, but they do not attempt to describe all that can or should be taught. A great deal is left to the discretion of curriculum developers and teachers. In addition, the District's adoption and use of academic standards should not be confused with standardized testing of students. While the District implements various state and federal testing mandates and also implements various locally-selected student assessments, the District's academic standards do not mandate the use of any specific standardized test or assessment.

## Why does the District have academic standards?

State law requires all school districts, charter schools, and certain private schools to adopt academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history.

## What is an example of an academic standard?

Below is an example of an academic standard for middle school mathematics.

*AASD Mathematics Standard for Students in Grade Seven*

*III. Expressions and Equations*

*a. Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.*

*b. Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.*

## What are the academic standards that will be in effect during this school year?

State law requires the District to provide the parents and guardians of all enrolled students with notice of the academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history that have been adopted by the School Board and that will be in effect during each school year.

Accordingly, the District academic standards that will be in effect in these specific content areas for the 2021-22 school year are listed below. If you have further questions or would like to receive a copy of these standards, please contact Dr. Gayle Luebke at [gluebke@birchwood.k12.wi.us](mailto:gluebke@birchwood.k12.wi.us) or 715-354-7921

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**Content Area /  
Subject**
**2021-2022 Student Academic Standards**
**English Language**

**Arts** (includes reading and writing)

*The Wisconsin ELA Standards were released in May of 2020.*

The Birchwood District uses the *Wisconsin State Standards for English Language Arts* as a foundation for its standards in English Language Arts (includes reading and writing). The 2020 Wisconsin Standards for English Language Arts build on the strengths of the 2010 state standards and focus on improving equity to advance learning for all students by providing every learner access to grade-level text, aiding Wisconsin students in being flexible writers, and supporting students in understanding how to vary their use of language based on audience, task, and purpose.

A copy of the standards can be found at:  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/standards/New%20pdfs/ELASTandards2020.pdf>

**Mathematics**

*The Wisconsin Math Standards were released in May of 2021.*

The Birchwood District has adopted the *Wisconsin State Standards for Mathematics*. Wisconsin's mathematics standards serve as rigorous goals for teaching and learning. Setting high standards enables students, educators, and parents to understand what students are expected to learn. Clear statements about what students must know and be able to do are essential to ensure students are given the opportunity to succeed.

A copy of the standards can be found at:  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/standards/New%20pdfs/MathematicsStandards2021.pdf>

**Science**

*The Wisconsin Standards for Science were released in November 2017.*

The Birchwood District has adopted *Wisconsin's Standards for Science*, developed based on the Next Generation Science Standards.

A copy of the standards can be found at:  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/standards/New%20pdfs/ScienceStandards2017>

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**Social Studies**  
(includes geography  
and history)

*The Wisconsin  
Standards for Social  
Studies were released  
in May 2018.*

The Birchwood District has adopted the *Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies*. The *Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies* provide a foundation that identifies what students should know and be able to do in social studies classes.

A copy of the standards can be found at:  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/standards/New%20pdfs/ScienceStandards2017.pdf>

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**Who can I contact for more information about the District's academic standards?**

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact Dr. Gayle Luebke at [gluebke@birchwood.k12.wi.us](mailto:gluebke@birchwood.k12.wi.us) or 715-354-7921.

This notice is issued pursuant to section 120.12(13) of the Wisconsin state statutes.