



## Frequently Asked Questions about Revision of Ohio's Learning Standards

Ohio teachers have taught their students using Ohio's Learning Standards since 2010. The Ohio Department of Education now is updating the standards with feedback from our state's teachers, parents and community members. We want to make improvements to the standards areas, building on what's already working well.

### **What are learning standards and why does Ohio have them?**

Ohio's Learning Standards explain what skills and knowledge students need to be successful in college, careers and life. The standards stress skills like critical thinking and problem solving — qualities today's employers are looking for in their workers. They also help us make sure we're consistent in teaching our students across the state. Standards also help Ohio measure the quality of its schools. Student scores on state achievement tests, which are based on the learning standards, help us understand how well our schools are educating their students.

### **Do the standards tell local school districts how to teach?**

No. In Ohio, local districts choose their own curriculum. This consists of the techniques and materials schools use to teach their students skills based on the standards. For example, one English language arts standard calls for students to read stories or books, then show that they understand the key ideas and details. Local school districts select which materials their students will read.

### **What is the purpose of the standards update?**

The Department is conducting this process to make sure the standards continue to reflect the expectations of universities and employers. It's important for Ohio to review the standards periodically to make sure they are still:

- Suitable for their grade levels;
- Providing critical knowledge in the subject;
- Leading to higher student achievement; and
- Promoting the skills colleges and employers tell us are most important.

### **How much change should educators expect from the standards review?**

We do not expect a complete rewrite of the standards – the work will focus on refining and updating them to make them even better.

### **How is the public involved?**

As we begin looking at each area of Ohio's Learning Standards, the Ohio Department of Education asks for opinions through an online survey. During a later survey, members of the public have the chance to review and comment on proposed updates.

### **What happens to the suggestions survey takers submit?**

The Department invites many educators with knowledge of the standards to get involved. Representatives of statewide education associations, who serve on advisory committees, read all suggestions and identify standards that need revision. Working groups of teachers then draft the revisions. As a final step, the State Board of Education must approve the updates.

## What is the schedule for the standards now under revision?

<b>Timeline</b>	
<b>English Language Arts and Mathematics</b>	
Revised standards presented to State Board of Education for final approval.	Winter 2017
Department and educator writing teams update model curriculum and other resources to help districts prepare for the revised standards.	2017
Educators begin using revised standards.	2017-2018 school year
<b>Science, Social Studies and Financial Literacy</b>	
Accept nominations for members of educator working groups.	Fall 2016
Survey seeks educator and public feedback on standards.	November 2016 – January 2017
Educators on advisory committees and working groups meet.	Jan. – Summer 2017
Second survey asks for educator and public feedback on proposed updates.	May-June 2017
Revised standards presented to State Board of Education for final approval.	December 2017 – January 2018
Educators begin using updated standards.	2018-2019 school year

### For more information:

- To receive email notifications about news on standards updates, go to [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov). Click on the envelope symbol at the top of the page, and under Ohio's Learning Standards, sign up for the standards subject that interests you.
- For general information, go to [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) and type *standards revision* in the search box.
- For answers to questions, email [standardsrevisions@education.ohio.gov](mailto:standardsrevisions@education.ohio.gov).