



Learning in Ohio



Ohio's Learning Standards, model curricula and assessments are the major components of our state's education system that work together to help students learn. Visitors to [Ohio's Learning Standards pages](#) at education.ohio.gov will find information, as well as many resources on these aspects of the learning process.

OHIO'S LEARNING STANDARDS

Identify what students should know and be able to do

The standards explain the knowledge and skills students are learning in pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

Ohio's Learning Standards emphasize skills like critical thinking and problem solving — qualities most sought by today's employers. By teaching our students to apply these skills to what they are studying in school, we can make sure they are on

track to graduate from high school and enjoy success in college, careers and life.

Ohio measures the performance of its schools based on how well students are progressing in gaining the knowledge and skills within the learning standards. We do this partly by measuring student performance on annual state tests based on the standards.

The State Board of Education has adopted learning standards in many areas: mathematics, English language arts, science, social studies, world languages, fine arts, technology, physical education and financial literacy. In 2016, the Ohio Department of Education started a process of updating all the standards over time. Thus far, educators statewide helped the Department make revisions to the English language arts and mathematics standards, which the State Board adopted in February 2017. Currently, we also are updating the [technology standards](#) as well as those in science, social studies and financial literacy. Learn more on the [Standards Revision page](#) at education.ohio.gov.

MODEL CURRICULA

Give guidance to educators as they teach with the standards and create aligned assessments.

Educators in local school districts choose their own curricula. That means they plan the instruction and select the teaching techniques, textbooks and other materials for their students that will help them gain the knowledge and skills called for in Ohio's Learning Standards.

For example, one English language arts standard calls for students to be able to read stories or books and then show understanding of key ideas and details. As students gain this ability, they learn how to make connections, draw comparisons and derive meaning from what they have read. As they develop their English language arts curriculum, local school districts select which books their students will read to build these skills.

Teams of teachers across the state helped develop model curricula and other related tools. State law does not mandate that school districts use these guides. However, by doing so, educators will find in-depth descriptions explaining what the standards mean that will help them develop local curricula and instructional plans.

To find the model curricula and other resources, select the area of interest from the [Learning in Ohio page](#) at education.ohio.gov.

ASSESSMENTS

Measure how students are learning and progressing through the standards.

Assessment is a term educators use when describing many of the ways they determine their students' school progress. Assessments that school districts give include traditional tests, but also include classroom activities that help teachers determine when each student needs additional help or practice, and when he or she is ready to move ahead in the learning process.

Ohio's State Tests measure how students statewide are developing the knowledge and skills described in Ohio's Learning Standards. The test results also help measure each public school's performance, which is reflected on its annual [Ohio School Report Card](#).

Students in grades 3 through 8 and high school take Ohio's State Tests in English language arts and mathematics. Periodically in middle and high school, these students also will take state tests in science and social studies. More information about these tests is [here](#).

RESOURCES

Provide tools to help all students and educators.

In many areas of study accessible from the Ohio Department of Education's [Learning in Ohio webpages](#), educators will find links for the following topics:

- **Standards** – Educators will find vertical alignment documents that show how student's knowledge or skill should increase in particular categories of the standards throughout several grade levels. Also see crosswalks and comparative analyses to show how the 2010 and 2017 standards differ.
- **Networking** – The Department participates in websites such as Pearltrees that allow educators to share tips and observations about what works. Teachers can use "pearls" as idea starters as they design lessons and activities for their classrooms.
- **Universal design** – These resources help teachers tailor instruction for learners with disabilities, English language learners and gifted students.
- **Professional development** – The [Ohio Standards for Professional Development](#) will help educators identify high-quality learning opportunities.
- **[Career Connections](#)** – These materials will help teachers build students' understanding of how their school work will relate to future jobs.