

# OSPI Learning Standards Review

## Science

*Updated as of 9.26.23*

### 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 ELA, mathematics, and science learning standards. OSPI anticipates review and approval in 2024, with transitional support to districts starting in 2025 and implementation within 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 WA standards will include support for learning design with content integration, Universal Design for Learning, language development, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive teaching, and more.

### Science

1. The updated science standards are still the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), with an emphasis on increased clarity and pedagogical support. District-level science curriculum adoption, as aligned with the NGSS, should continue.
2. To support educators in understanding and implementation, the updated science standards will have more robust and detailed clarification and assessment boundary statements.
3. The updated science standards will be organized into possible groupings accompanied by learning examples to support educators in more effective and efficient teaching. These will include specific pedagogical supports for learning design with content integration, Universal Design for Learning, social-emotional learning, culturally responsive teaching, and more.
4. OSPI's release of the updated science standards will be accompanied by resources and professional learning for districts, schools, and educators to support the teaching and learning of science.

### FAQs

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

A: Science 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 science classes.



**Q: Will districts need to adopt new curricula aligned to the updated WA science standards?**

A: No. The Washington state science learning standards continue to be aligned with the NGSS. This revision is focused on increased clarification and pedagogical supports. Districts should continue to follow policies related to their local curriculum review and adoption process.

**Q: Will the science state summative assessment (WCAS) change?**

A: OSPI will include any information about implications for the state assessments through future updates, and in professional learning and transition support materials about the updated math standards. Any changes to the science state test will not affect student scores before spring 2028.

## **Standards Review Team Contact**

Standards Review Team [standards.review@k12.wa.us](mailto:standards.review@k12.wa.us)