

Learning in Ohio



[Ohio's Learning Standards](#), model curricula, assessments and resources are major components of our state's education system that work together to help students learn. While state law does not mandate that school districts use the standards or model curricula, the standards and model curricula are valuable resources for districts that choose to rely upon them. Visitors to [Learning in Ohio](#) will find information and many resources on these aspects of the learning process.

ORC 3301.079(B)(3): All school districts, community schools, and STEM schools may utilize the state standards and the model curriculum.

Ohio's Learning Standards

Identify what students should know and be able to do.

The standards explain the knowledge and skills students are expected to know 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, computer science and financial literacy. In 2016, the Ohio Department of Education started updating the standards. Educators statewide helped the Department revise the standards through stakeholder feedback, advisory groups and working groups. Learn more on the [Standards and Model Curriculum Revision: Overview](#).

Model Curricula

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

Educators in local school districts choose their 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 necessary to learn and earn credit for the courses they take. The model curricula adopted by the State Board of Education provide exemplar curricula aligned to 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 to make connections, draw comparisons and derive meaning from what they have read. As local school districts develop their English language arts curriculum, they 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. In the model curricula, 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](#) webpage.

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 educators.

- **Standards** – On the [Learning in Ohio](#) webpage, educators will find vertical alignment documents that show how students' knowledge or skill should increase in particular categories of the standards throughout several grade levels.
- **Diverse Learners** – 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.
- **Virtual Meetups** – The Ohio Department of Education hosts virtual meetups in collaboration with various professional organizations across the state to support administrators and educators in each content area. The schedule for upcoming meetups and recordings of past meetups can be found on the [Virtual Meetups for Content Area Educators](#) webpage.
- **Career Connections** – These materials will help teachers build students' understanding of how their schoolwork will relate to future jobs.