

Preparing students for college and careers



The Missouri Learning Standards further define our high expectations for what Missouri students should know and be able to do in each course and grade level, helping ensure they graduate prepared for college, career and life.

- English Language Arts & Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- World Languages
- Fine Arts
- Health/Physical Education
- Guidance & Counseling
- Career & Technical Education

The Missouri Learning Standards are aligned with the Show-Me Standards, which have been in place since 1996. The updated Missouri Learning Standards were developed by Missourians for Missouri students. School districts will use the updated grade- and course-level expectations to develop the curriculum they teach in their schools. The Missouri Learning Standards

- provide consistent expectations across content and grade levels;
- incorporate feedback from educators, Missouri legislators, academic researchers and the public;
- focus on research and application skills that students need for success after high school; and
- ensure students graduate from high school prepared for college and career.

The Missouri Learning Standards do not dictate curriculum. Local districts and schools make their own decisions about curriculum, instructional strategies, materials and textbooks. Districts and the state use the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) to track progress. DESE will provide optional support materials such as examples, glossaries, assessment and curriculum documents, crosswalks, upper-level course guidance, course selection models and three-dimensional learning resources.

Higher Education

The Missouri Learning Standards align with Missouri's college-ready standards to ensure students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in college without the need for remediation. Over time, this can lower remediation rates and translate into higher rates of college completion and significant savings to the state, students and their families.

MLS Highlights

- In English language arts, there is a new emphasis on K-12 digital and media literacy and an added focus on research in writing.
- In mathematics, traditional high school math courses remain. A few expectations, such as time and money, have moved to earlier grades.
- In science, there is more emphasis on research and application rather than memorization. Students will be asked to use scientific processes in context throughout the year.
- In social studies, Missouri history moves back to 3rd grade, as it was in the late 1990s, so that districts may incorporate other social sciences in 4th and 5th grades. Students will be asked to evaluate or analyze rather than list or describe.

#MOStandards

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