

Montana's New Math Standards

What District Boards of Trustees Need to Know

ONLINE RESOURCES



Why Did We Update the Math Standards?

We updated the math standards to make them clearer, more useful, and better for students, families, and educators.

- **Based on New Research:** The standards now include the latest ideas on how students learn math best, with new ways to teach and learn math that connect to students' lives.
- **Keeping Up with Today's World:** The standards include skills students need, like understanding data, using technology, and exploring jobs in trades and careers.
- **Easier to Understand:** We removed unnecessary details so teachers, students, and families can understand and use the standards better.

What's Different?

- The total number of standards has been reduced, making them more focused and easier to teach, while maintaining rigor.
- Math standards require contextual examples relevant to Montana's Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Elementary standards emphasize essential skills like time and money.
- The standards emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, and data literacy—skills students need for college, careers, and active citizenship.
- High school students can choose math courses aligned with their career goals, supporting diverse post-graduation pathways.

How School Boards Can Support Implementation:

- Work with district leaders to confirm that the local math curriculum aligns with the new standards.
- Invest in Professional Development to support ongoing training so teachers understand the new standards and effective teaching methods.
- Provide families with clear information about the new standards and how they can support student learning.
- Encourage school leaders to use assessment data and classroom observations to guide teacher support, identifying and sharing successful practices.
- Work with school leaders to monitor implementation and ensure that the new standards are being taught in classrooms as intended, using a clear process to track progress and address challenges.
- Consider reviewing district policies or documents that reference mathematics content standards and updating outdated references to Common Core.