

# Montana's New Math Standards

What School and District Administrators 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 Administrators Can Support Implementation:

- Work with teachers to ensure all math courses reflect the updated standards.
- Prioritize training that helps teachers understand the new standards and adopt effective instructional strategies.
- Regularly check that teachers are teaching the new standards as intended, using classroom observations and teacher feedback.
- Support grade-level and course-specific PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) for teachers to align lessons and share best practices.
- Make sure families understand the changes and how they benefit student learning.
- Ensure that high school course offerings provide clear pathways for students based on their career goals.
- Conduct a K-12 curriculum review and evaluate current high school math courses to ensure they align with the new standards and support diverse student pathways.