

Montana' New Math Standards

What Tribal Education Agencies 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 state is working to provide guidance documents with IEFA-integrated instructional examples for each of Montana's content standards, K-12.
- Math lessons are encouraged to draw on local stories, histories, and knowledge, making learning more meaningful for all students.
- Elementary standards emphasize essential skills like time and money.
- The number of standards has been reduced for better focus, without losing important skills.
- 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 Tribal Education Agencies Can Support Implementation:

- If your community chooses, work with schools to develop math lessons that reflect local values, history, and knowledge—on terms defined by the community.
- Advocate for professional development that helps educators teach math in culturally relevant ways.
- Encourage schools to communicate with Native families about how math is being taught and how they can support their children's learning.
- Work with schools to ensure Native students have access to high-quality math instruction and support when needed.
- Work with schools to ensure math lessons and examples accurately represent local cultures and avoid stereotypes.
- Continue to advocate for the respectful use of cultural knowledge in math lessons, ensuring that sacred teachings or stories are not used without community approval.