



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 18, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Assistant Superintendents of Curriculum and Instruction, Supervisors, Instructional Coaches and Teachers
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Adoption of the Revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce the adoption of the 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics by the New Jersey State Board of Education on October 4, 2023. The process for reviewing and revising the NJSLS began in July 2022 and was informed by teachers, administrators, higher education faculty, and other stakeholders throughout the State. There was representation from rural, urban, and suburban districts as well as non-profit organizations and agencies. The 2023 NJSLS were revised following public input and feedback received through regional testimony sessions, written comments, and feedback submitted through the NJDOE website.

These standards represent a foundation from which LEAs will build curriculum and instruction to equip each New Jersey student with the knowledge and skills to succeed academically from kindergarten through 12th grade and beyond. New Jersey continues its commitment to educational excellence by including the following revisions to the 2023 NJSLS:

English Language Arts:

- Enhanced performance expectations for foundational reading in grades kindergarten through grade five (K-5) which emphasize decoding and encoding, phonological awareness, phonics and word identification, and analysis of word parts to undergird students' early literacy skills;
- Newly developed K-5 Foundational Writing standards that complement the K-5 Foundational Reading expectations, including performance expectations for sound-letter basics; letter formation; spelling; elements of grammar; sentence composition; and the development of writing skills and habits;
- Clear delineation of performance expectations between informational and literary texts which demonstrate the necessary skills and knowledge related to each text type, including the elimination of redundant language across Reading and Writing expectations and Companion Standards; and,
- A set of ELA practices that support the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) development of literacy proficiencies, and a vision for ELA that honors the need for scaffolding concepts and skills across all grades for all students.

Mathematics:

- New early data literacy standards which reflect the changing ways in which data has increasingly become the lens with which students discuss and respond to inquiry and make sense of the world. Designating "plus" standards that may be clustered into courses such as statistics and data science supports the focus on data literacy;
- New early elementary standards that develop conceptual understanding of monetary value and money, and establish a progression toward later standards for solving problems involving money; and,
- Shifts in grade eight and high school content bolster learning progressions for key Algebra concepts and skills.

The date for curriculum implementation for both the 2023 NJSLS-ELA and mathematics is September 2024. The NJDOE will support educators to prepare for implementation through stakeholder outreach, professional learning opportunities, and resources for curriculum development to support equitable access to high-quality, standards-based instruction, and assessment.

Technical assistance webinars will be provided on the following dates:

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Thursday, November 2, 2023 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Thursday, November 9, 2023 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Friday, November 17, 2023 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Friday, November 17, 2023 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Monday, November 20, 2023 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.	Monday, November 20, 2023 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Register at the [NJDOE's Events Registration web portal](#). Pre-registration is required to attend this webinar.

The NJDOE thanks all stakeholders for the support and feedback during the NJSLS adoption process, and looks forward to working with educators across the State to build professional capacity, curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Contact information

Please email the Office of Standards at ELA@doe.nj.gov or mathematics@doe.nj.gov with any questions regarding the adopted 2023 NJSLS.

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- NJDOE Staff
- Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
- Garden State Coalition of Schools
- NJ LEE Group