

The Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards are the statewide expectations for student learning in K-12 public schools. All students, including students with unique learning needs, must meet the credit requirements and satisfactorily complete all state and local standards to graduate. The standards are satisfactorily completed through the demonstration of grade-level knowledge and skills in the benchmarks. Each content area of academic standards is reviewed and revised on a 10-year timeline set by the Minnesota legislature.

School districts and charter schools determine how their students will meet the standards and benchmarks by developing courses, curriculum and instruction.

Academic standards are important because they:

- Prepare students for success in careers, college and civic life.
- Work toward equity by describing the knowledge and skills that all students across the state must learn and by supporting a well-rounded education for all.
- Define state requirements for graduation.
- Guide school districts' and charter schools' adoption and design of curricula.
- Describe how learning progresses from kindergarten to high school.



State of Minnesota

Sets learning destination

Academic standard: A summary description of student learning in a required content area or elective content area identified by state law.

Benchmark: The specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band.

Content Areas with State Developed Standards:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- The Arts*

*Schools can choose state or locally developed art standards.

**Not required for graduation.



Local Public Schools

Determine how students will reach the destination

Curriculum: District or school adopted programs and written plans for providing students with learning experiences that lead to expected knowledge and skills.

Instruction: Methods of providing learning experiences that enable a student to meet state and district academic standards and graduation requirements including applied and experiential learning.

Local Assessment: Tools that educators use to evaluate, measure and document a student's progress toward and achievement of learning described in the standards and benchmarks.

Content Areas with Local Developed Standards:

- The Arts*
- Career and Technical Education**
- Health
- World Languages** (Developed using current world languages standards developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)