



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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January 15, 2018

() Action Required
Due Date: February 15, 2018
(X) Informational

BULLETIN NO. 003–18 LEARNING AND TEACHING

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Curriculum Administrators
Career and Technical Education (CTE) Directors
School Principals

FROM: Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Public Comment for Computer Science Education K–12 Learning Standards

CONTACT: Shannon L. Thissen, Program Supervisor, Computer Science
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Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform teachers, administrators, students, and other stakeholders of the opportunity to provide feedback on updates to the Washington K–12 Computer Science Learning Standards adopted in December 2016. Washington’s K–12 Learning Standards are based on national computer science standards that have recently been revised by the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA). Washington adopted the standards in 2016 with the stipulation that the modifications to the national standards would later be considered for adoption as well.

Background

Computer Science K–12 Learning Standards are authorized by [RCW 28A.660.045](#) and [28A.660.050](#).

Under current Washington law ([RCW 28A.655.070](#)), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has the responsibility to develop and maintain Washington’s academic learning standards consistent with the goals outlined in the Basic Education Act, [RCW 28A.150.210](#). This includes periodic review and possible revision of the standards.

Washington is committed to implementing high-quality computer science instruction that:

- Increases the opportunity for all students to gain knowledge of computer science.

- Introduces the fundamental concepts and applications of computer science to all students, beginning at the elementary school level.
- Increases computer science at the secondary level, worthy of a computer science credit, and/or equivalent to math and science courses as a required graduation credit (see Level 3A of computer science standards).
- Offers additional secondary-level computer science instruction that allows interested students to study facets of computer science in depth and prepare them for entry into a career or college (see Level 3B of computer science standards).

How these Standards are Different

The new standards document incorporates the following changes made by the CSTA to improve coherence, alignment, and readability:

1. Consistent vocabulary in all grade levels to provide coherence.
2. New language for standards formerly written as performance objectives.
3. Improved alignment across grade bands.
4. Developmentally appropriate progressions in grade bands.
5. Changed order and numbering of standards for better alignment across grade bands.

The Computer Science Teachers Association has worked with OSPI to create crosswalks between the interim and final standards to identify the modifications. The public review acknowledges the proposed changes and invites feedback to help strengthen the content and supporting resources.

How to Provide Feedback

The [public comment survey](#) will be available through February 15. No individual responses from the survey will be reported. The data gathered will be used to revise standards and grade-level outcomes, if needed, and to inform considerations for technical assistance needed to help districts implement the standards.

If you have questions about this bulletin, please contact Shannon Thissen, Computer Science Program Supervisor, at 360-725-6092 or email shannon.thissen@k12.wa.us. For additional information on the Washington State K–12 Computer Science Standards, visit the Computer Science website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/ComputerScience/LearningStandards.aspx>.

This bulletin is also available on the OSPI website at www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2018.aspx.

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