

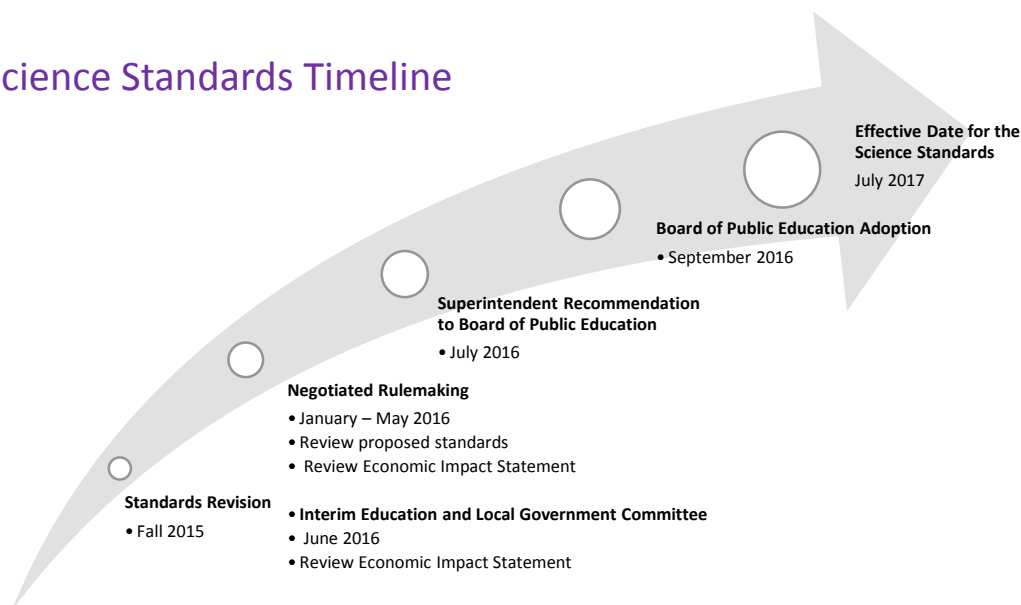
Proposed Montana Science Standards

Highlights of the changes from the current Montana Science Standards

The proposed Montana science standards encompass scientific ideas and practices that all students should learn by the end of high school in order to be prepared for college and careers.

- The standards move from general content standards across all science disciplines to three distinct disciplines: earth and space science, life science, and physical science.
- The standards emphasize that students will learn science by connecting science content across the three disciplines and applying design practices and technology to solve problems.
- The standards are organized by grade level for grades K-5 and by grade band for grades 6-8 and 9-12.
 - Grade level standards for K-5 clarify learning expectations for elementary teachers who teach in all content areas.
 - Grade band standards for grades 6-8 and high school clarify expectations and allow flexibility of staffing and program delivery.
- The standards support cognitive science, rigor, and the need to promote student interest in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.
- The standards integrate Montana’s Indian Education for All.

Science Standards Timeline



Proposed Montana Science Standards

Frequently Asked Questions

What do the Montana Science Standards encompass?

The Montana science standards encompass what students should know and be able to do in relation to earth and space science, life science, and physical science. These standards support the integration of content area ideas, crosscutting concepts, science and engineering practices, and technology.

Why are the science standards being updated now?

The Board of Public Education has adopted a regular cycle for review of content area standards. The purpose of the regular review of standards is to ensure that content standards reflect current knowledge and best practices for each content area.

How are these science standards different from the 2006 version?

The Montana science standards, adopted in 2006, include six content standards with benchmarks at grades 4, 8, and 12 as well as performance standards at those three grade levels. The proposed standards are organized by grade level for grades K-5 and by grade band for grades 6-8 and 9-12. These standards integrate Montana's Indian Education for All and move from general content standards across all science disciplines to three distinct disciplines: earth and space science, life science, and physical science.

How are content standards different from curriculum?

Standards define what all students are expected to know and be able to do. The Board of Public Education adopts standards into the Administrative Rules of Montana. Standards do not define curriculum. Curriculum is a local school board responsibility. A school or district curricula include the instructional strategies and resources teachers use in order for all students to meet grade level or grade band standards.

Who was involved in the revision of these standards?

- Subject area experts and educators representing Montana's cultural and geographic diversity
- A negotiated rulemaking committee whose membership included school district trustees, K-12 school administrators, K-12 teachers, higher education faculty, school business officials, parents, and taxpayers
- The Board of Public Education and its affiliates including the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council and the Montana Advisory Council for Indian Education

What professional development will be offered?

Science teachers at every grade level will have access to professional development opportunities that will help integrate the new standards and instructional strategies into their curriculum. The Office of Public Instruction's teacher leaders in science projects will provide regional face-to-face awareness and deeper learning trainings around the state, as well as on line science standards courses on the OPI Teacher Learning Hub at <http://opi.mt.gov/learninghub>

When will these standards go into effect?

Pending approval by the Board of Public Education, Montana's new science standards will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

For more information, go to the OPI Teaching and Learning Website:
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html>