



Curriculum FAQ

What is an Oregon State Standard? This is the standard for what students should know and be able to do within a content area at specific grade levels across the state. The Oregon Department of Education has 12 Standards, which might be better identified as subjects:

- [The Arts](#)
- [Comprehensive School Counseling](#)
- [English Language Arts](#)
- [English Language Proficiency](#)
- [Health, Library and Media Education](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Physical Education](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Sexuality Education](#)
- [Social Sciences](#)
- [World Languages](#)

How are standards determined? The [Oregon State Board of Education's](#) seven members set the public K12 education standards. Members are appointed by the Governor.

What is curriculum? A planned sequential material of instruction to meet the instructional goals of Oregon State Standards. Curriculum can be designed by each district to meet each standard.

Who chooses curriculum? A district's local school board approves curriculum. ([ORS 337.120](#))

- School board policy can delegate this to the Superintendent. Find this policy under "IF" in the district's published school district policy. Ask for this policy in its entirety, if needed.
- Supplemental materials or school sponsored activities, student clubs, or student leadership that the board or superintendent has not approved, may implement curricula. .

Break down: A Standard is the subject every K12 student will be taught, per grade. Curriculum is how the subject is delivered to the students to learn.

Do parents have rights regarding curriculum? Yes. Here is a comprehensive list of [state statutes and rules](#). Some of these statutes and rules provide protection for parental rights, including opt-out forms. Visit OMU's [toolkit](#) to learn more about parental rights and to find forms.

Is instructional material the same as curriculum? No. Instructional material is what is used to teach the curriculum lesson. It is the how or what is taught: printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments. [US Code Title 20 \(Education\) Chapter 31. Subchapter III. Part 4. 1232h. \(Protection of pupil rights\) a.](#)

Break down: Curriculum is what will be taught. The instructional material is how the lesson is learned.

Federal and Oregon law supports the transparency of curriculum. Parents and guardians have the right to inspect all instructional materials!

How to review curriculum? Under the federal [PPRA](#), parents are allowed to review the curriculum used to instruct their children in public schools. This is also protected under ORS 336.465 Examination of instructional material. To request curriculum:

Dear [teacher or principal],

Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C § 1232h, I request immediate access to all curriculum material, including teacher training materials, used in [specify class].

Guided questions to ask your school district:

- Which subjects are up for adoption each year? What is the sequence? The [State adoption cycle](#) should be followed.
- Find out upcoming dates for curriculum adoptions to be proactive!
- What is the process for public input *before* the faculty or district recommends a curriculum? OARS [581-022-2350](#) and [581-022-2355](#)
- What criteria will be used for selecting the curriculum? The State has [adoption criteria](#) which the school district is required to use. [ORS 337.141](#)
- How does the district choose its publishers?
- Ask for full curriculum access. See OARS [581-022-2350](#) and [581-022-2355](#)

- Is human sexuality and/or gender identity taught outside of comprehensive sexual education or can you opt out?

Resource: Sign up to receive ODE's updates on standards and instruction [here](#).