Subject: New CSTA PK-12 Standards Published - OSPI Computer Science August 2026
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From: OSPI Secondary Education and Pathway Preparation
To: [redacted]

Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Computer Science

OSPI CS Website | OSPI CS Email

August 2026

Note: Resources are provided for informational purposes and not as recommendations from OSPI. We recommend reviewing all educational materials for alignment with district policy and state law before using with students. Articles and other resources are provided for informational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints or policies of OSPI.

Washington CS Standards Revision

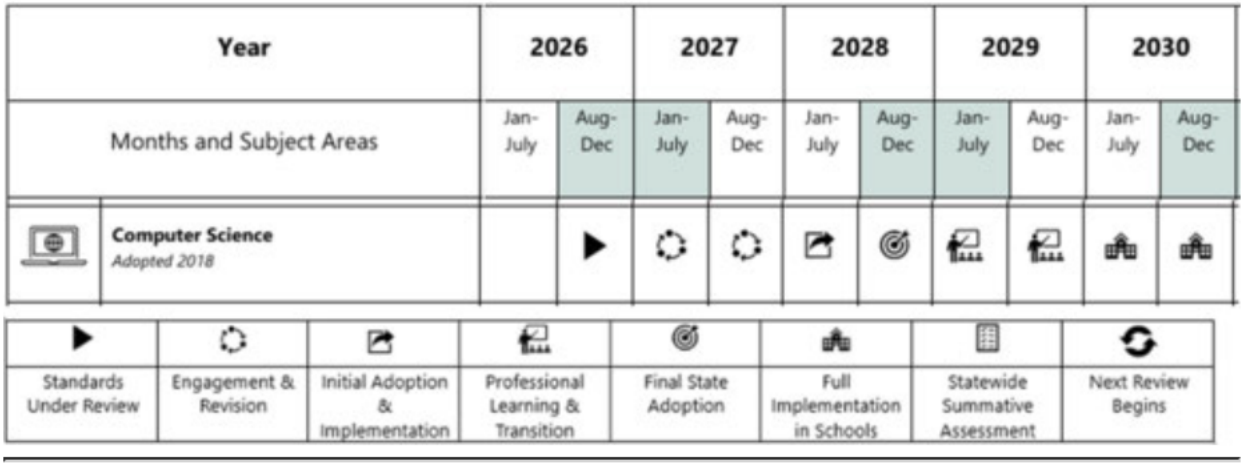
OSPI is undergoing review and revision of standards for each subject area on a rolling basis. Within the last few months, the updated standards for Mathematics and ELA were officially released which each contain significant updates overlapping with computer science through data science and media literacy, respectively.

The revision process for the Washington Computer Science standards is beginning this year following the release of the 2026 CSTA PK-12 Computer Science standards

year following the release of the 2026 CSTA PK-12 Computer Science standards, detailed further below. OSPI has not yet determined how the new CSTA standards may inform future revisions to Washington's computer science learning standards.

More information about the revised Washington CS standards will be broadcasted through this newsletter as updates are available. Educator feedback and input will be essential to this process, so stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

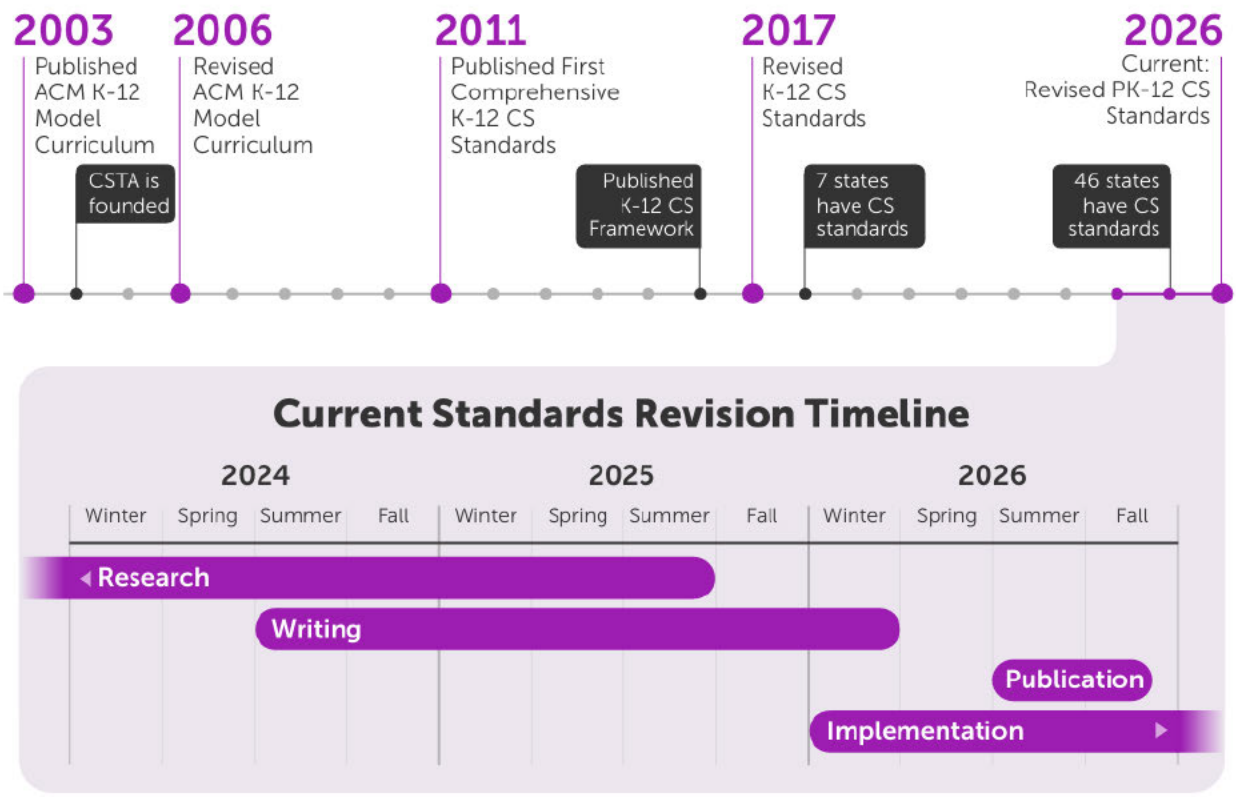
Visit the Washington State Learning Standards Review page to find out more about the standards review project.



2026 CSTA PK-12 Computer Science Standards

The Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) is the national organization behind the development of the widely recognized and adopted computer science (CS) standards. Last month, CSTA officially published the **2026 PK-12 Computer Science**

Standards after nearly 3 years of research, drafting, and implementation. This marks the fifth iteration of the national CS standards, 9 years after the previous iteration in 2017.



The Progressions Chart provides a compact view of the new standards outlined by concept and subconcept.

View the 2026 Standards Progressions Chart

The 2026 Standards at a Glance

The complete standards document totals 218 pages and covers a lot of content. Here is a breakdown of some of the key elements present in the new standards.

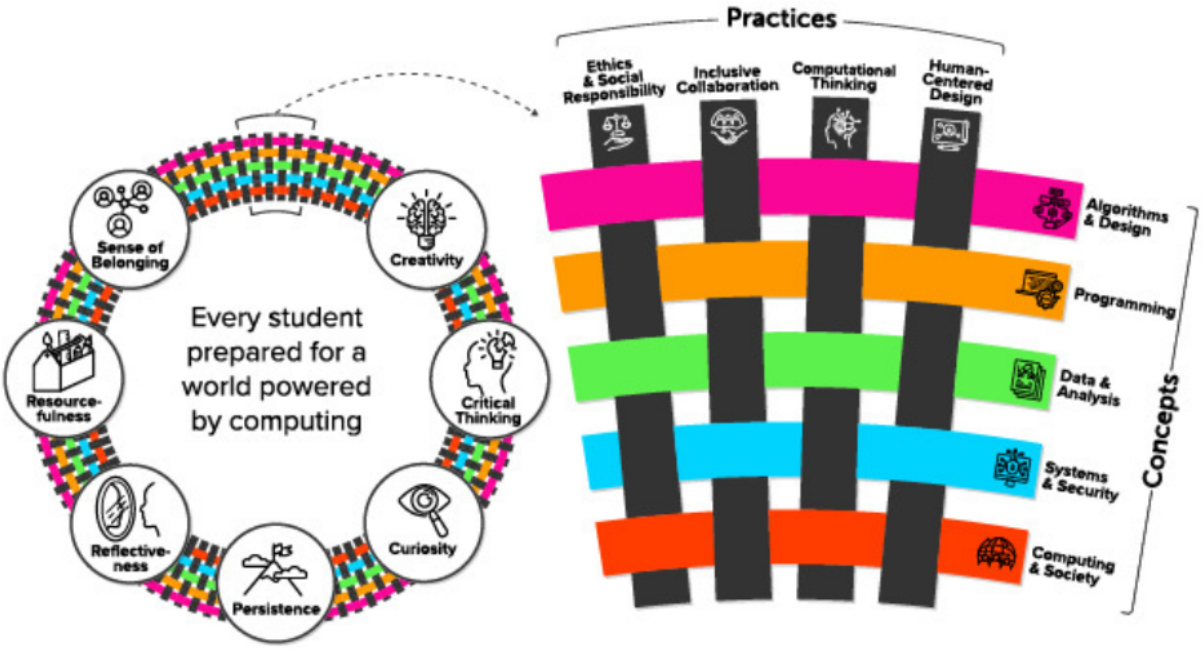
Concepts and Practices

For those familiar with the 2017 standards, there are still 5 concepts used as primary categories but with some adjustments:

2017	2026
Algorithms and Programming	Algorithms & Design
Networks and the Internet	Programming

Data and Analysis	Data & Analysis
Computing Systems	Systems & Security
Impacts of Computing	Computing & Society

The 7 core practices in the 2017 standards have become 4 practices and 7 dispositions in the 2026 standards woven throughout these concepts, as visually portrayed below.

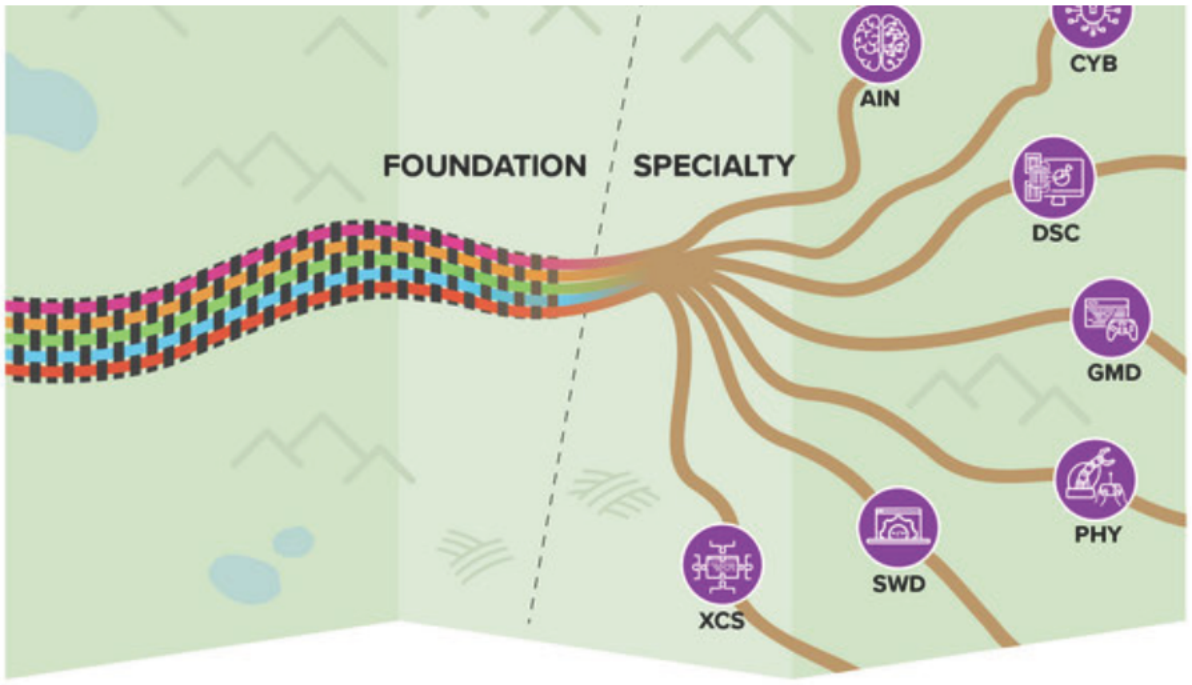


High School Specialty Standards

In addition to the foundational PK-12 CS standards, specialty standards at the high school level are included to "defin[e] advanced, domain-specific learning in key areas of computing. These standards are organized into two tiers (Specialty I and Specialty II) across six high school specialty areas identified through the Reimagining CS Pathways project:

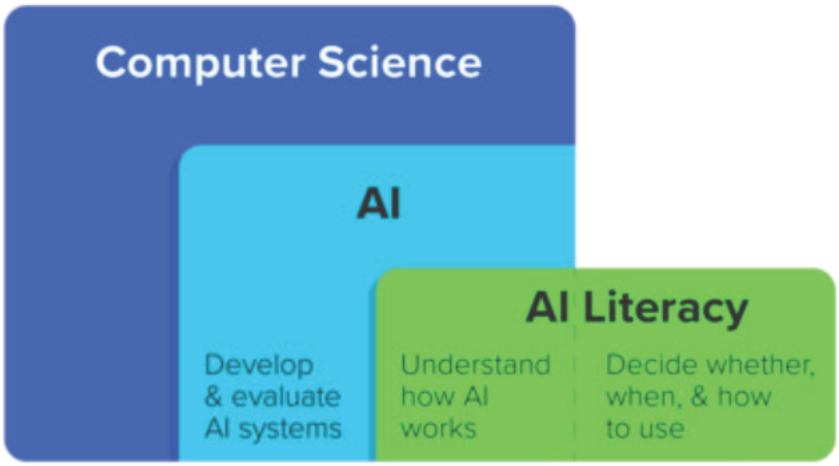
- *Artificial Intelligence (AIN)*
- *Cybersecurity (CYB)*
- *Data Science (DSC)*
- *Game Development (GMD)*
- *Physical Computing (PHY)*
- *Software Development (SWD)*

Additionally, *X+CS* standards support interdisciplinary learning by integrating foundational high school CS content into other subject areas."



Artificial Intelligence

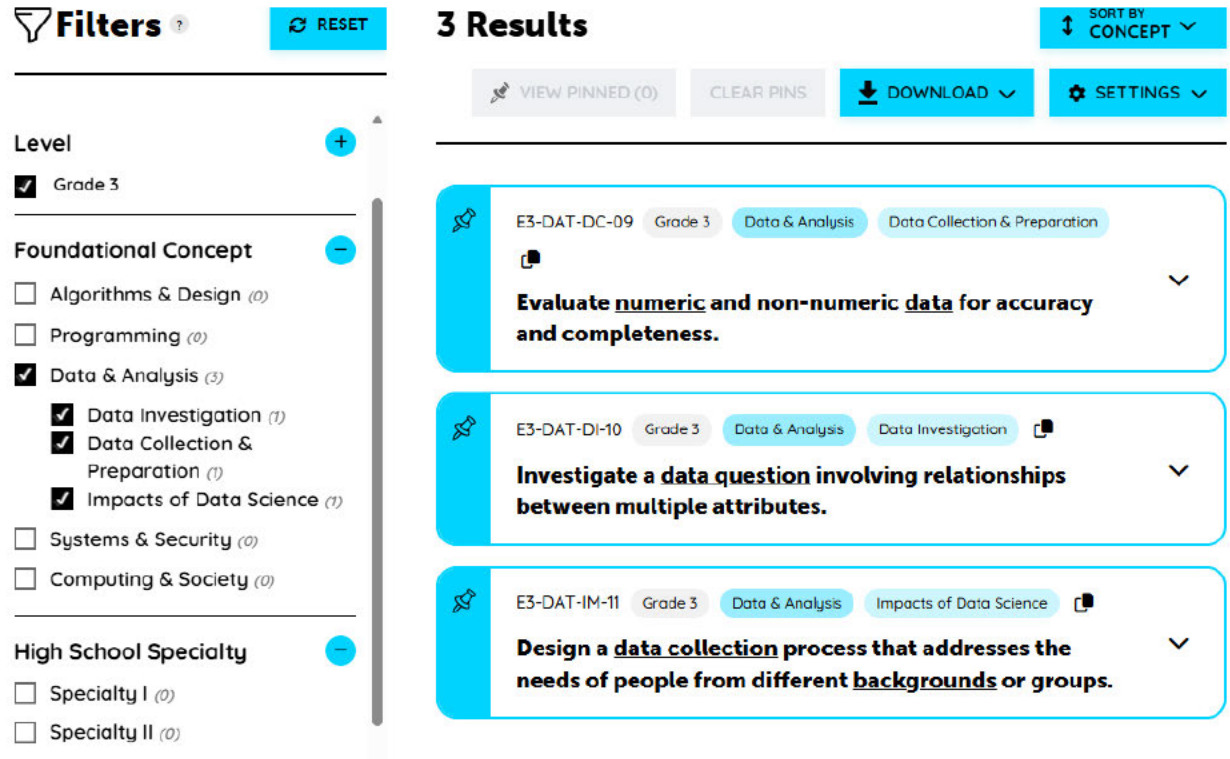
Artificial intelligence (AI) - which is mentioned in the 2017 standards only a few times - is now addressed throughout every concept. The AI-related standards aim to "strengthen students' ability to become critical consumers, responsible creators, and informed participants in society."



Interactive Display and Other Resources

CSTA has provided many useful resources to aid in navigating the 2026 standards including an **interactive view of the standards** which allows you to search, filter, and customize your view of the standards.

For example, if you are only interested in grade 3 standards within the Data & Analysis concept, the view may be adjusted as such:



Other useful elements of this display include:

- the **Settings** tab at the top which allows you to toggle viewable items within each standard card;
- **definitions** for clickable technical terms as well as a full glossary;
- a filter for **AI-related standards** (at the bottom of the filters list);
- the option to **download** the standards, *maintaining all the customizations you have made*; and
- the option to **copy the URL** in your browser as a link to the standards *with all the customizations you have made*.

View the 2026 Standards Interactive Display

Other Resources

Other supplemental resources can also be found on the Resources page, including:

- One-pagers of standards for each grade level/band
- Progression charts, including one that highlights AI-related standards
- Crosswalk between the 2017 and 2026 standards
- Guidance for implementing grade level vs grade band standards

and many more means of support to help navigate using these standards in the classroom.

classroom.

Online PD Opportunities

CSTA offers many on-demand PD opportunities designed for CS teachers. Currently the summer sessions are available until September 27, 2026, including:

- **CSTA 2026 PK-12 Standards: An Introduction**
- **Using The CSTA Standards for CS Teachers To Improve Practice**
- **Women in CS: Understanding the Impacts, Disparities and Their Voices**

Members with free CSTA accounts have limited access to additional resources and must purchase each PD training individually. **Members with a paid membership gain access to all PD trainings at no additional cost**.

CSTA Washington

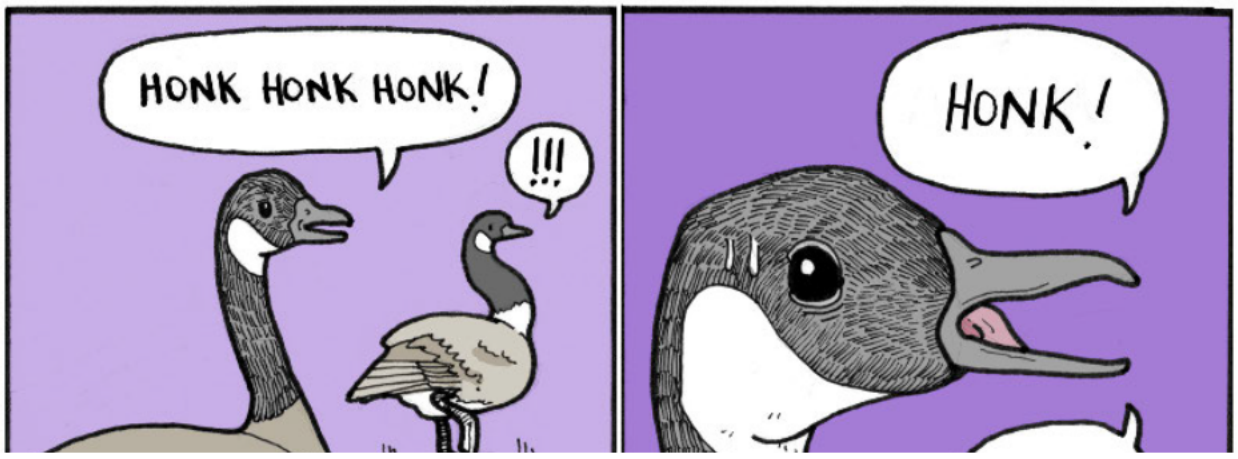
CSTA hosts local chapters within participating states for CS educators to build community, connect through events, and share resources.

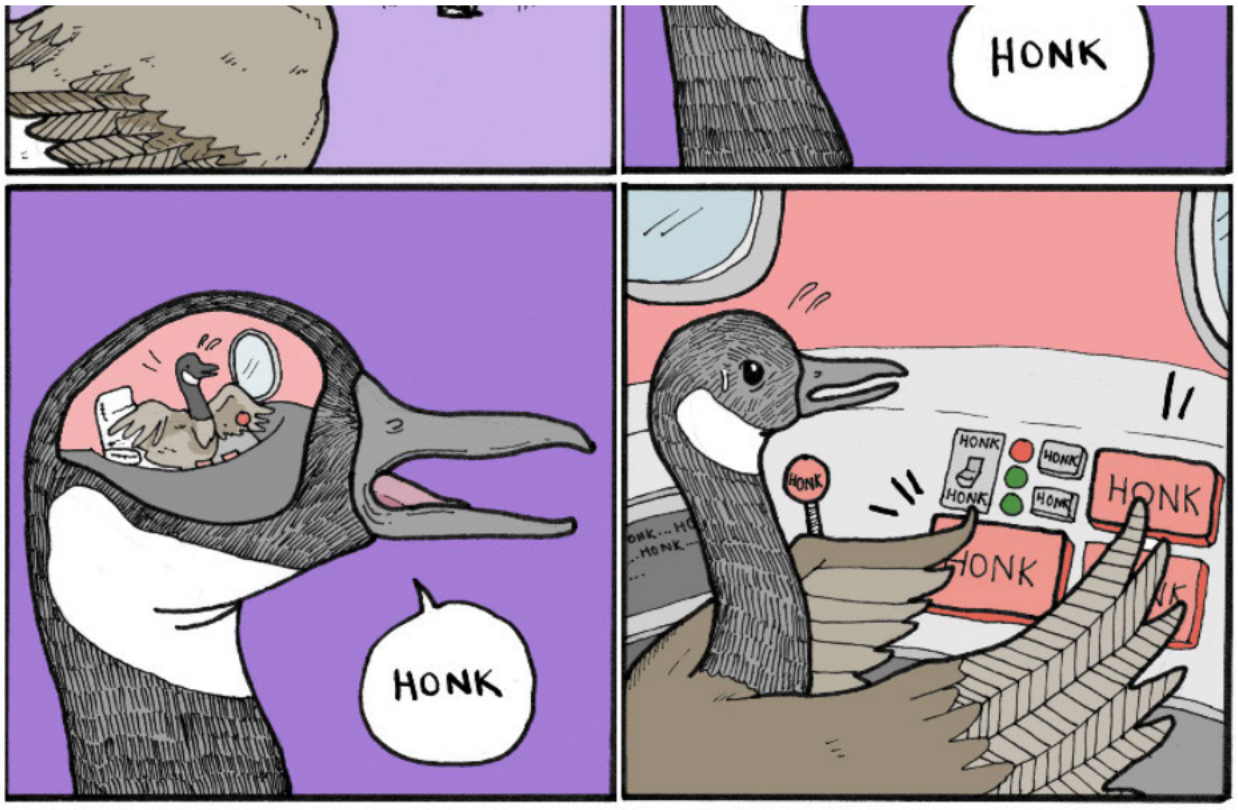
Membership in CSTA and CSTA Washington typically costs $50 annually. **For a limited time, you can become a member (or renew your membership) for $10 for one year by using the discount code WASHINGTON10.**

For more information, visit cstawa.org

System Reboot

Welcome to the bottom of the newsletter. Please enjoy a brief moment of levity. Breathe in, breathe out, be the human that AI cannot be in the world.





Source: False Knees

Looking for other computer science advocates or want to connect with the broader CS education community?

CSforAllWA is a CS education advocacy group who wants to help you do just that. Consider reaching out to find out more.

ALL STUDENTS PREPARED FOR POST-SECONDARY PATHWAYS, CAREERS, AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

Led by State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, OSPI oversees K-12 public education in Washington state. Our mission is to provide funding, resources, tools, data and technical assistance that enable educators to ensure students succeed in our public schools, are prepared to access post-secondary training and education, and are equipped to thrive in their careers and lives.

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