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Standards Review & Revision Updates



January 8, 2026

English Language Arts

Monthly Standards Update

**Due to the adoption of the 2026 ELA SCOS, this First Friday message is issued a day earlier than scheduled.*

Draft 4 Adopted as 2026 ELA Standard Course of Study

On January 8, 2026, the NC State Board of Education (SBE) adopted Draft 4 as the 2026 ELA Standard Course of Study for implementation in the 2027-2028 school year. The current [2017 ELA Standard Course of Study](#) will remain in place for classroom instruction for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. The newly approved K-12 ELA SCOS aims to serve as the framework that guides each Public School Unit (PSU) in the development of the curriculum and instruction for English Language Arts.

The NCDPI K-12 ELA Team expresses their gratitude to the thousands of stakeholders--educators, state and national experts, and community members--who contributed to the development of these standards. Their collaboration and expertise have been crucial to ensure the standards set expectations that will allow students to be innovative thinkers and competitive in post-secondary pursuits--college, career, or military--and throughout their lives.

In an effort to keep stakeholders informed, the NCDPI ELA Team will provide monthly standards updates that contain the latest announcements and current news regarding the adopted 2026 ELA SCOS. These updates are sent the first Friday of every month. To receive these updates straight to your inbox, **please** [subscribe to our listserv](#). To view past listserv messages, [visit the NCDPI ELA Webpage](#).



2026 ELA Standard Course of Study Initial Installation Materials Released

Initial Installation Resources Available

Throughout the installation phase, supporting resources will be developed and shared. Stakeholders are encouraged to check the [ELA Virtual Implementation Kit \(VIK\)](#) often for updates and additional resources.

Adopted 2026 ELA SCOS

Key features of the [2026 English Language Arts Standard Course of Study](#) include:

- Standards and objectives format for consistency with other content area Standard Courses of Study, including a streamlined structure with three strands and one substrand.
- Standards and objectives rooted in three fundamental principles: complex text at the center of instruction; integration of literacy domains (i.e. reading, writing, speaking, and listening); and use of a variety of text genres, modes, formats, and lengths.
- Foundational skills extended to span K-12.
- Language structures and vocabulary skills integrated across all strands.
- Grammar and conventions listed explicitly as grade-level objectives.
- Written and spoken student products expanded to include opinion/persuasive, informational, explanatory/expository, poetry, descriptive, and narrative products.

View the adopted 2026 ELA SCOS K-12 or by grade-band via the [ELA Virtual Implementation Kit \(VIK\)](#).

Communications Toolkit

The NCDPI ELA Team strongly encourages PSUs to use the provided resources to inform their stakeholders of the 2026 standards adoption. The [Communications Toolkit](#) is designed to help public school units (PSUs) communicate the newly adopted 2026 ELA SCOS to stakeholders. It provides ready-to-use templates, key messages, an FAQ, and visual materials to assist with timely and effective communication. The resources included may be adapted to fit PSU needs, helping leaders keep all stakeholders informed.

2017 & 2026 ELA SCOS Crosswalk

The [Crosswalk](#) illustrates the variance between the 2017 NC ELA Standard Course of Study and the adopted 2026 NC ELA Standard Course of Study. This resource can be used to assist with adapting and/or revising local curriculum.

Frequently Asked Questions Document

The [FAQ one-pager](#) includes common questions and answers about the adopted 2026 ELA Standard Course of Study.

NAEP & ACT Mapping Document

The [mapping document](#) connects the NC ELA Standard Course of Study (SCOS) to the 2026 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Framework and 2026 ACT Core Academic Skills Framework. In support of the NC Strategic Plan: *Achieving Educational Excellence*, this resource illustrates how the 2026 ELA SCOS aligns with key assessment frameworks, helping stakeholders align instruction and advance the strategic plan's goals for student achievement and postsecondary readiness.

Installation Timeline



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

The adoption of the 2026 ELA SCOS marks the beginning of [standards installation](#). During installation (January 2026 - July 2027), both NCDPI and PSUs prepare for implementation. Throughout the installation phase, NCDPI will provide professional development and supporting resources. Some of the resources to expect during installation are below:

- Unpacking Documents by Grade
- Glossary
- Highlighted Vertical Progression
- Parent/Caregiver Guide
- Morphology & Word Work Resource
- Grammar and Conventions Resource
- Sentence Composition Resource

Standards Implementation Guide

The [Standards Implementation Guide](#) aims to provide general guidance to PSUs on the considerations that must be made as PSUs and schools install newly revised NCSCOS.

Implementation of Adopted 2026 ELA SCOS

Note: The current [2017 ELA Standard Course of Study](#) will remain in place for classroom instruction and assessment through the 2026-2027 school year.

Public school units (PSUs) are expected to implement the 2026 North Carolina Standard Course of Study for K-12 English Language Arts starting in the 2027-2028 school year. Details regarding professional learning opportunities and forthcoming resources will be shared via listservs and social media channels. Consider encouraging colleagues to subscribe to the [ELA Team listserv](#) and/or follow the ELA Team's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages, so they can stay informed throughout installation and implementation of the 2026 ELA Standard Course of Study!

A flyer for the ELA Standards Update Webinar Series. The title is 'ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS UPDATE WEBINARS'. It encourages joining the NCDPI ELA Team throughout the 25-26 academic year to learn more about the proposed English Language Arts Standard Course of Study. It lists four benefits: gaining a greater understanding of the proposed standards, exploring proposed revisions from the 2017 SCOS, diving deeper into the proposed SCOS organization and structure, and receiving updates on the installation timeline and supporting resources. It provides registration dates: September 11, 2025 (Slides I Recording), November 20, 2025 (Slides I Recording), February 5, 2026 (Registration), and June 11, 2026 (Registration). The time is Thursdays from 3:45-4:45 PM. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction logo is at the bottom.

ELA Standards Update Webinar Series

Mark your calendars for the [ELA Standards Update Webinars!](#)

Join the NCDPI ELA Team to learn more about the newly adopted English Language Arts Standard Course of Study.

Webinars will allow participants to:

- Gain a greater understanding of the adopted 2026 standards
- Explore revisions to the 2017 SCOS
- Dive deeper into the adopted 2026 SCOS organization and structure
- Receive updates on the installation timeline and supporting resources

Upcoming Webinars

Register today for the remaining hour-long learning opportunities, and consider sharing [the flyer](#) with colleagues who would be interested in joining!

- **February 5, 2026** | 3:45 - 4:45 | [Webinar Registration](#)
- **June 11, 2026** | 3:45 - 4:45 | [Webinar Registration](#)

Previous Webinars

View recordings of previous webinars to catch up on information you may have missed or share the recordings with colleagues to keep them in the loop! Recordings to previous webinars are available in the [ELA Virtual Implementation Kit \(VIK\)](#) on the Professional Learning Page under [On-Demand Resources](#).

- Standards Update #1: [Webinar Recording](#) | [Webinar Slides](#)
- Standards Update #2: [Webinar Recording](#) | [Webinar Slides](#)