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*October 2023*

## Standards and Instructional Support Newsletter

Welcome the Standards and Instructional Support Office's monthly newsletter with topics focusing on the Colorado Academic Standards. [Visit the Office of Standards and Instructional Support homepage for the latest news and information.](#)

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### Standards Review and Revision

## Computer Science Standards drafts to be reviewed by State Board of Education

The Committee for the Computer Science Standards Review and Revision completed a draft for the proposed revisions and additions to the current Colorado Academic Standards for Computer Science. The committee followed recommendations from the State Board of Education to review a benchmarking report from McREL to address gaps in our current standards.

Highlights of the new draft include two new standards focusing on artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. The State Board of Education will review the standards draft with public comment beginning at around 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the State Board of Education boardroom at 201 E. Colfax Ave. Denver.

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## Computer Science

- [Applications are open for the next round of Computer Science Teacher Education Grants, computer science postsecondary education. Intent to Apply](#) is due by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 10. Completed applications must be [submitted through the new online application system, GAINS](#), by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17.
- Watch these webinars about the grant application:
  - [GAINS System Only Webinar - CSed Grant](#).
  - [Grant Program and GAINS System Webinar - CSed Grant](#).

## Science and STEM

- [American Physical Society Division of Plasma Physics will host a free student expo](#) on Thursday Nov. 2, and Friday, Nov. 3, and [free Teacher Day on Wednesday, Nov. 1](#), in Denver. Bus reimbursement and substitute reimbursement is available. [Access the flyer here](#).
- The application for the Presidential Award in Engineering, Math, Science and Technology is open for kindergarten through sixth grade teachers. [Visit CDE's Science webpage](#) or the [PAEMST site](#) for more information.
- The National Science Teachers Association conference is scheduled for March 20-23 at the Denver Convention Center.
  - The conference offers opportunities for science teachers such as:
    - Hands-on workshops that enhance on-going development of teachers and school leaders.
    - Concurrent sessions to promote best practices in instructional planning and assessment.
    - Networking opportunities to develop relationships within a nationwide professional community of science educators.
  - [For more information, please visit the NSTA website](#).
- Check out the announcements section on [CDE's Science webpage](#) and [STEM webpage](#) for up to date professional learning opportunities. Reach out to Sam Agoos at [agoos\\_s@cde.state.co.us](mailto:agoos_s@cde.state.co.us).

## Social Studies

- **Veteran's Day** - To help young Americans better understand the contributions of the nation's veterans, the VA and the Veterans Day

around Veterans Day, which is Saturday, Nov. 11. Please reproduce and share the guide in your school and community. In addition to providing information on the sacrifices Veterans have made throughout the years, the guide will also help inspire ideas for projects and events that can be used to thank veterans.

Our nation's history is the history of America's veterans, individuals who stood the watch every moment of every day of every year. Thank you for remembering and honoring veterans on this important and special day.

- **Resources for Teaching about the Israel-Hamas Crisis:**

- [How to talk to your children about conflict and war](#)– UNICEF: Eight tips on how to approach the conversation with children and to provide them with support and comfort.
- [Handle With Care: Supporting Young People During Crises](#) – Learning for Justice: People struggle to respond when traumatizing events occur in our communities, across the country and around the world. For families, educators, and community members who must respond to the needs of children as a traumatizing event unfolds, recommendations and resources are available.
- [How to Talk to my Kids about Violence in the News](#) and [Explaining the News to our Kids](#)- – Common Sense Media: Even when we're struggling, our kids look to us for answers. Knowing how and when to talk with kids and when to listen can help. Age-appropriate ideas for talking and listening are available here.



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