How to Use the Curriculum Hierarchy

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What is a Curriculum Hierarchy?

States, School Districts, and several national teaching organizations publish teaching standards that prescribe what teachers should teach and what students should learn in the classroom. For many school administrations, a teaching resource cannot be used unless it can be demonstrated that it aligns or correlates to standards. To address this customer requirement, PBS LearningMedia has a system to correlate resources to standards, and to display standards correlations to users. PBS LearningMedia also provides an interface to "browse by standards," allowing users to find resources through the use of standards documents.

Example

The following is a typical curriculum hierarchy string: Health and Physical Education > Self, Family, Environment, and Society > Environment

How many levels down do I need to align my resource?

When cataloging your assets, please drill down to the furthest node possible while still retaining accuracy (i.e.: Do not guess or choose a random node just for the purpose of drilling down further). To meet National and Common Core Standards, your resource must drill down to the following minimum node levels:

- Science – 3rd
- Mathematics - 4th
- English Language Arts and Literacy – 4th
- The Arts – 3rd
- Health and Physical Education – 3rd
- Preschool – 3rd
- Social Studies – 4th and 5th (some strands only have 4 nodes)

If you cannot meet the minimum level, assign at least two (2) levels and contact PBS to help with the rest.

Where do I assign the curriculum hierarchy?

The curriculum hierarchy is assigned at the resource level. Learn more

What if I don't know how to align my resource?

If you are unsure what nodes to assign to your resource, do not attempt to guess. Please contact PBS immediately and we will guide you through the process.
Top level curriculum hierarchy nodes

Correlating to standards is difficult and nuanced. Scale is one challenge -- there are hundreds of standards statements for each state, in each subject. PBS LearningMedia provides spreadsheets containing comprehensive lists of all curriculum hierarchy nodes for each top level subject. You must request access to these spreadsheets. Request access to curriculum hierarchy spreadsheets