

Executive Summary: Exposure Draft Comparison

Standard on Parcel Mapping and Parcel Identification | 2025 Exposure Draft → 2026 Final

Prepared for the IAAO Board of Directors | 2026

The 2026 revision of the *IAAO Standard on Parcel Mapping and Parcel Identification* reflects significant changes in technology, data management, and professional practice since the last update in 2015. Over the past decade, advancements in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), integration with Computer-Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) systems, and increasing public demand for accessible digital mapping have transformed how parcel data is created, managed, and shared. The updated standard modernizes guidance to address these changes and strengthens the role of assessors as stewards of authoritative parcel data.

A key change is the updated title, shifting from *Digital Cadastral Maps and Parcel Identifiers* to *Parcel Mapping and Parcel Identification*. This reflects a broader focus on parcel data governance and identification systems rather than simply map production. The revision emphasizes the assessor's responsibility for maintaining accurate parcel records and ensuring that parcel data serves as the official reference within a jurisdiction.

The 2026 standard introduces several new sections that address the changing and evolving operational needs. A foundational addition formally recognizes the assessor as the **authoritative data source** for parcel information, establishing responsibilities for governance, data stewardship, and collaboration with GIS and IT partners. The revision also provides new guidance on **GIS and CAMA data integration**, outlining three common models—GIS-centric, GIS-embedded, and GIS-linked—to accommodate varying levels of technological maturity across jurisdictions.

Additional updates address the growing importance of **web mapping applications**, emphasizing standards for accuracy, accessibility, and maintenance of both internal and public-facing systems. The revision also significantly expands **quality control requirements**, including verification of ownership information, parcel relationships, tax district assignments, mapping accuracy, and alignment between GIS and assessment databases.

Finally, the standard updates **parcel identifier guidance** by adding a fifth category—**system-assigned identifiers** generated by GIS or database systems—and references international best practices through alignment with the Land Administration Domain Model (ISO 19152).

Overall, the 2026 revision modernizes the standard to reflect the profession's evolution from maintaining maps to managing integrated parcel data systems that support assessment administration, government operations, and public transparency.