

EDUCATIONAL



THE UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Report to the Education Interim
Committee

Core Standards for Utah Public Schools

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Core Standards for Utah Public Schools

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

U.C.A. Section 53E-4-202 requires the Utah State Board of Education to submit a report annually to the Education Interim Committee on the development and implementation of the core standards for Utah public schools, including the timeline established for the review of the core standards for Utah public schools by a standards review committee and the recommendations of a standards review committee established under Section 53E-4-203.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During fiscal year 2017-2018, the Utah State Board of Education (Board) continued revisions to core standards for Health Education, K-5 and 9-12 Science, and Early Childhood Education. The Health Education Core is currently out for 90 days of public review which closes January 30, 2019. With Board approval, the K-5 and 9-12 Science Core Standards will be released for public review in early 2019. The Early Childhood Core Standards will be completed after health and science so that they can align with the most current standards. It is anticipated that final versions of all three core standards will be completed in early 2019.

BACKGROUND

U.C.A Section 53E-4-202 authorizes the Board to establish minimum school standards that identify knowledge skills and competencies in core subject areas, in consultation with local school boards, school superintendents, teachers, employers, and parents.

REVISION PROCESS

The timeline for revision of core standards is a minimum of one year. In practice, depending upon the complexity of the subject, the number of courses in the discipline, and the amount of public input, the currently defined process can take up to two years.

State statute requires that the process for adopting new standards in certain subject areas begins with the Board directing a standards review committee to study existing standards and make recommendations for revisions. The process also includes publication of draft core standards, a public review of 90 days, and at least three public hearings in various parts of the state.

The Board has established the following internal rules and procedures for fulfilling its responsibilities for adopting core standards:

Notice of Revision



Standards Review Committee (SRC) meets to make initial recommendations



Report SRC recommendations to the Board



1. Notice of revision by Board
 - a. The Superintendent shall review the core standards described in Subsection 53E-4-203 to identify core standards that may need revision based on:
 - i. Recommendations from staff content area specialists
 - ii. Requests from parents or other stakeholders
 - iii. When significant new knowledge is available in a content area
 - iv. Any other criteria brought forth by a member of the Board
 - b. USBE will announce the commencement of a revision of standards in a regularly scheduled Board meeting.
 - c. Upon announcement of standards revision, staff will request the formation of a standards review committee from the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and the Board Chair.
 - i. Membership in the standards revision committee is subject to the requirements set forth in rule.
 - ii. The Board Chair shall approve the final standards review committee membership.
 - d. Staff will present to the Board a fiscal impact analysis including an estimate of implementation costs.
 - e. Staff will present to the Board a plan to assess the effectiveness of the standards.
2. Standards review committee (SRC) meets to make initial recommendations
 - a. The SRC is governed by rule and is facilitated by staff.
 - b. The SRC shall meet twice within the first three months of constitution.
 - c. The SRC shall make written recommendation of its findings to the Board.
 - d. If the SRC does not reach consensus, a minority report shall be included in the report to the Board.
3. Report SRC recommendations to Board
 - a. A written report will be prepared by staff and approved by the SRC.
 - b. Staff will present the recommendations of the SRC at a regularly scheduled board meeting.
 - c. Board will give staff direction on recommendations from the SRC.

Writing committee organized



Report revision recommendations and progress to Board



Communicate with the SRC to provide updates



Report to Board periodically with updates and check-ins



Submit to Board for approval of 90-day review



Public review with monthly updates to the Board



4. Writing committee organized
 - a. Staff will organize and facilitate writing committees comprised of experts in the content area, including both public education and higher education experts and others who may provide expertise in that content area.
5. Report revision recommendations and progress to Board
 - a. No more than four months after the beginning of the writing process staff shall report on the progress of the writing process and shall provide any drafts available to the Board for any necessary course corrections.
 - b. Staff shall continue reporting on progress through regular updates to the Board throughout the writing process no less than every four months.
6. Communicate with the SRC to provide updates.
7. Report periodically to Board with brief updates and check-ins during revision process.
8. Submit to Board for approval of 90-day review
 - a. Staff shall submit a draft of content standards to the Board during a regularly scheduled board meeting.
 - b. Board shall consider releasing standards for 90 days of public input.
 - c. If approved, the 90-day review period begins immediately on the date of approval.
9. Public review, including review by any applicable advisory committees to the Board, with monthly brief updates to the Board via email.
 - a. Public review:
 - i. Staff shall provide an online survey where the public can comment on the draft standards.
 - ii. Staff shall schedule five meetings in various locations around the state at times and places convenient to the public.
 - iii. Staff shall also consider email, phone, and voice comments received in preparing the report to the Board
 - b. Staff shall provide a written report regarding public



comment at the conclusion of the public comment period. The report shall include anticipated direction based on public comment.

- c. The Board shall direct staff regarding public comment received.
10. Revision based on public input
 - a. The writing committees shall revise the draft standards based on public comment and Board direction.
 - b. During this period, staff may make revisions public to continue receiving comment until finalized.
 11. Standards to Board for review and adoption
 - a. Proposed final standards are submitted to Board committee and to the full Board for final adoption.
 12. Report implementation plan
 - a. Staff will present an implementation plan to the Board that will include:
 - i. A communication strategy for dissemination of the standards
 - ii. An analysis of existing and needed resources and a plan to support local education agencies (LEAs) in resource identification and acquisition
 - iii. Details on professional development programs and needs
 - iv. A report on impact to existing assessments and anticipated needs for revision
 - v. A fiscal impact analysis including all of the above and an estimate of implementation costs to LEAs

HEALTH EDUCATION CORE STANDARDS

In July 2017, the Board approved initiating the revision process of the Health Education Core Standards. A Standards Review Committee was organized. The seventeen members included five members nominated by Senate President Niederhauser, five members nominated by Speaker of the House, Greg Hughes, and seven members approved by Board Chair Mark Huntsman. The Standards Review Committee met three times: October 3, 2017, November 27, 2017, and January 16, 2018. During these meetings the Standards Review Committee reviewed and discussed

current standards and created the Standards Review Committee Report with recommendations to the Board.

In March 2018, the Board approved the organization of the writing committee. The writing committee is made up of various stakeholders including educators, university professors, an LEA specialist, and individuals from the Utah Department of Health, American Heart Association, Primary Children's Hospital, Utah Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Mental Health, as well as Board staff. The writing committee first met on March 29, 2018 to review the report produced by the Review Committee, go over Utah code, the current standards, and organize working groups. The committee met over 30 times between March and September 2018, providing regular updates to the Board. As of November 1, 2018, the Board approved the 90-day public review period during which time an online survey is available for the public to provide feedback. There are also six public hearings scheduled in various areas of the state during this time. The 90-day public review period of the draft health education core standards closes January 30, 2019. It is anticipated that a final version of the health standards will be completed in early 2019.

K-5 and 9-12 SCIENCE CORE STANDARDS

On November 2, 2017, the State Board of Education approved staff to facilitate a State Standards Review Committee for K-5 and 9-12 Science Standards. With names submitted from Senate President Niederhauser (five parents), House Speaker Hughes (five parents), State Board of Education Chair Huntsman (seven science/education experts), two committee meetings occurred on November 28, 2017 and January 5, 2018. From the work and discussion in these meetings, the committee completed a report of suggested recommendations for the Utah State Board of Education regarding drafting the K-5 and 9-12 science standards.

In April 2018, the USBE accepted the Science Standards Review Committee Report and recommended that K-5 and High School Science Standards Writing Teams be organized to revise science standards for Kindergarten through 5th grade and High School (9-12). Writing teams, consisting of Utah university professors and Utah K-12 science teachers, first met in May 2018 and their work continued through November 2018. With Board approval, the draft science core standards will be released for public review in early 2019.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CORE STANDARDS

The Utah Early Childhood Core Standards were originally written in 2011 and received Board approval in May of 2012. The Standards were the result of a collaborative effort among the Utah State Board of Education, the Utah Office of Child Care, Head Start, the Bureau of Child Development, Higher Education, the Utah PTA, United Way, public

schools, Special Education, Title I, Voices for Utah Children, Child Care Resource and Referral, and parents.

The Standards were written for three- and four-year old children back-mapped from the kindergarten core standards. The purpose of the Utah Early Childhood Core Standards is to help public preschools make informed decisions regarding curriculum in order to prepare children for kindergarten. The Utah State Board of Education now has several subject areas with updated kindergarten core standards (Elementary Language Arts: June 2013, Elementary Mathematics: April 2016, Fine Arts: April 2016, and Physical Education: March 2016).

In 2017, with board approval, the revisions committee began making recommendations to update and align the Standards, as well as convert them to the new Board format, while complying with the Board's established process for standards revision. The revisions better align to current K-12 core standards across all content areas. In January 2018, the writing committee began considering the recommendation from the revisions committee and writing revisions for standards. The Early Childhood Standards will be completed after health and science so that they can align with the most current standards.

CONCLUSION

During fiscal year 2017-2018, the Utah State Board of Education continued revisions to core standards for Health Education, K-5 and 9-12 Science, and Early Childhood Education. The Health Education Core is currently out for 90 days of public review which closes January 30, 2019. The K-5 and 9-12 Science Core Standards are currently being worked on by writing committees. With Board approval, the Science Standards will be released for public review in early 2019. The Early Childhood Education Core Standards are also with a writing committee. They will be completed after health and science so that they can align with the most current standards. It is anticipated that final versions of all three core standards will be completed in early 2019.