
Chemistry Standard Setting

The Background:

Under §49-1-302 (2)(B)-(D), the State Board of Education “set(s) policies for evaluating individual student progress and achievement, evaluating individual teachers, and measuring the educational achievement of individual schools. Further §49-1-302 (a)(8) states that the State Board may “set policies governing all curricula and courses of study in public schools.”

The state field tested Chemistry End-of-Course in SY 2012-13, and administered the operational assessment for the first time in SY 2013-14. When the state develops a new assessment or the state’s curriculum standards change significantly, best practice in assessment administration calls for a standards setting process. During these meetings, panels of educators review test items in order to determine what constitutes adequate student performance across all four criterion reference scores—below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. After the panel convenes, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will review and determine that the process used to establish standards were executed effectively.

From June 23 to June 25, 2014, the department convened teachers for chemistry standard setting. 20 teachers representing 17 districts and 1 private school participated in the standard setting.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.