



TENNESSEE
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS: IMPLEMENTATION CHECK

SBE WORKSHOP

JULY 26, 2018

CONTEXT OF STANDARDS REVIEW

- The State Board of Education (SBE) is charged with reviewing all academic standards on a six-year cycle.
- Beginning in October 2014, English Language Arts (ELA) and math were reviewed mid-cycle based on direction from the Governor and General Assembly.
- After an unprecedented period of public feedback and based on the work of dozens of expert Tennessee educators who wrote and reviewed the standards, SBE adopted new ELA and math standards in April 2016 for implementation in the 2017-18 school year.

CHALLENGES OF THE MID-CYCLE REVIEW

- While the review process resulted in high-quality, rigorous Tennessee standards, its timing created several challenges for schools and districts.
- Challenges:
 1. Educators did not have state-reviewed materials aligned to the revised standards in the first year of implementation because the six-year textbook and instructional materials review cycle did not coincide with the mid-cycle standards review.
 2. Districts had to train educators on revised standards in two major content areas at the same time.
 3. Teachers had to quickly design instruction aligned with revised standards in two of their core subject areas at the same time, particularly those in elementary grades who teach multiple subjects.

IMPLEMENTATION CHECKS

- Now, the State Board seeks to build on the highly effective ELA standards adopted in 2016 while also returning ELA and math to separate review cycles, each aligned with their respective textbook review cycle.
- SBE staff worked with a small team of the original standards writers to incorporate educator and community feedback on the ELA standards as part of an implementation check.
- These revisions and clarifications will be presented tomorrow on first reading and in October on final reading.
- If adopted, these ELA standards will reset the six-year review cycle for ELA.

ELA IMPLEMENTATION CHECK TIMELINE

December 2017 – January 2018

- The State Board hosted an online survey for the public to provide feedback on the ELA standards.

February 2018

- State Board staff aggregated the data from the survey and added in concerns from the field that the ELA specialists at the Department of Education had noted throughout the training and early implementation period.

March 2018

- A team of Tennessee ELA educators met in person to review the feedback and begin incorporating necessary changes. The team worked virtually throughout April and May 2018 and submitted proposed changes to the State Board.

June 2018

- State Board and Department staff worked with the review team to answer remaining questions and make final edits.

July 2018

- The standards will be up for approval on first reading following this workshop presentation on the revision process and proposed updates.

ELA IMPLEMENTATION CHECK TIMELINE

July 27 – September 15, 2018

- The public may provide feedback on the ELA standards approved on first reading by emailing their comments to TNStandards.Review@tn.gov.

September - October, 2018

- All public comments will be thoroughly reviewed and considered and may result in changes to the standards as proposed at first reading.
- The standards will be finalized for presentation at the Board's October meeting.

October 2018

- SBE will vote on the ELA standards on final reading.

August 2020

- If approved, the ELA standards will be implemented across Tennessee.
- At that time, districts will also have new, standards-aligned textbooks and instructional materials to support standards implementation.

OVERVIEW OF STANDARDS UPDATES

- **Clarifications regarding specific standards:** The reviewers recommended changes to several standards in order to address concerns from educators and other members of the public.
- **Grammatical and formatting changes:** Several changes have been made throughout the standards document to ensure that proper and consistent language and formatting are used.
- **Refinements to glossary definitions.**
- In addition, the standards reviewers updated the format of the **permanent ELA high school elective courses**.
 - They improved the **coding** of the standards and the **introductory text** for each set of standards to better clarify the purpose of each course.
 - There were few changes to the actual elective course standards.

SPECIFIC STANDARDS CHANGES

- The majority of changes involved additions to the **introductions of each standard strand, the glossary, and appendices**. These changes include:
 - Clarification of terms
 - Addition of a language progression chart
 - Implementation guide
- In the **Foundational Skills** strand, changes to individual standards include:
 - Added language to provide more specificity (e.g., prosody)
 - New sub-standards to better scaffold students in using reference materials

SPECIFIC STANDARDS CHANGES

- In the **Language** strand, changes to individual standards include:
 - Addition of specific punctuation expectations (e.g., hyphens).
 - Movement of some conventions expectations to different grade levels (e.g., the use of the dash was moved from grade 6 to grade 8).
- In the **Reading** strand, changes to individual standards include:
 - Replacing "main idea" with "central idea" for consistency through all grade levels. (standard 2)
 - Adding the word "mood" to the standard about "tone." (standard 4)
 - Expanding "point of view" to "perspective." (standard 6)
 - Providing guidance for use of both historical *and* contemporary texts. (standard 9)

SPECIFIC STANDARDS CHANGES

- No revisions were made to the **Speaking and Listening** standards.
- In the **Writing** strand, changes to individual standards include:
 - Revising “formal style and objective tone” to “an appropriate style and tone as they relate to tasks and audience.”
 - Clarifying expectations of applying language *and* foundational skills in students’ writing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Educators, parents, and the general public are welcome to provide further input on the ELA standards between first and final reading.
- By Sept. 15, please email TNStandards.Review@tn.gov to share your feedback.