
Tennessee Academic Standards for Science

The Background:

T.C.A. §§ 49-1-311-313 sets the process for transparent, comprehensive review of Tennessee Academic Standards in the areas of mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies. These reviews occur at least every six years on a rotating basis and are further codified in State Board Standards Review Policy 3.209. In August 2021, the State Board began review of the science standards in compliance with law and policy.

After two rounds of public feedback and revisions by TN educator teams, the Standards Recommendation Committee (SRC), appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, further reviewed the revised standards and public feedback. The SRC approved and made final recommendations for the State Board regarding the new standards at their June 10, 2022 meeting. They also wrote an Executive Summary to accompany their recommendation.

Changes made by the SRC include:

- Adding clarifying language to K-8 standards.
- Ensuring alignment to researched best practices for science education in K-8 as well as Chemistry 1 & 2 and Biology 1&2.
- Splitting Physics into two courses to better reflect what is feasible to teach in a single course. The split mimics the divide found in the AP Physics courses.

No changes have been made since first reading.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.