
2029-2030 Tennessee English Language Arts (ELA) Standards Revision

Background:

The State Board of Education (SBE) is charged under Tennessee statute (T.C.A. §§ 49-1-311-313) to review and approve the English Language Arts (ELA), math, science, and social studies standards at least every eight years. Each [standards review follows a rigorous, legislatively mandated, multi-year process](#) to promote collaboration and transparency. This process includes two public feedback surveys and three committee convenings to examine each standard's contribution to students' learning and postsecondary and career preparation.

For the 2024-2026 English Language Arts Standards Revision Process, SBE received over 48,000 public comments from Tennesseans to guide revisions. Additionally, 297 educators applied to serve on the expert review committees, the most ever applications since SBE began leading the process in 2015.

As part of this item, the chair and vice-chair of the Standards Recommendation Committee drafted an executive summary that highlights their guiding values and key changes between the current standards and proposed revisions.

This standards revision process was only possible because of the tireless dedication of 29 expert reviewers, the Tennessee Department of Education's (TDOE) Academics & Instructional Strategy and Assessment, Accountability, & Research teams, SBE staff, and thousands of Tennesseans who shared feedback.

T.C.A. § 49-1-312 directs SBE to adopt, reject, or make technical nonsubstantive revisions to the standards. After SBE approves the ELA Standards on final reading, [multiple stakeholders collaborate to prepare for implementation](#) starting in the 2029-2030 school year. TDOE will develop training and guidance materials, the Textbook and Instruction Quality Commission will evaluate and recommend textbooks and instructional materials, and districts will select State Board-approved textbooks and instructional materials.

Minor formatting and grammatical changes were made between first and final reading.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Literacy, outlined in the Master Plan, by ensuring ELA standards are rigorous and aligned with postsecondary and workforce needs.

The Recommendation:

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