

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Issue: Presentation, discussion and consideration to adopt the proposed policy for the development of the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards
--

 Action/Discussion Item Information Item**Background and Discussion**

Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §15-203 requires that the Board define college and career readiness. A.R.S. §§15-701 and 15-701.01 specifically authorize and mandate that the Board adopt academic standards and minimum competency requirements for grades K-12.

The Board adopts academic standards addressing what a student is ultimately expected to learn (i.e., multiplication, grammar, understand simple words and expressions in a foreign language). Arizona retains authority to approve and modify academic standards; there is no federal law requiring the adoption of specific standards.

At the March 2015 meeting of the Board, Governor Doug Ducey called upon the Board to make any necessary changes to the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards, in order to ensure that the standards are vetted, approved and controlled by Arizona, and that they are the best for Arizona's students.

In response to Governor Ducey's request, the attached policy for the development of the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards is presented to the Board for consideration.

In anticipation of the Board's deliberation of this policy, applications for consideration for appointment to the Committee are available at <http://www.azed.gov/state-board-education/state-board-advisory-committees/>.

Recommendation to the Board

It is recommended that the Board adopt the proposed policy for the development of the Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards, as presented herein.

Contact Information:

Christine M. Thompson, Executive Director, State Board of Education

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Arizona State Board of Education
Policy for the Development of the
Arizona Mathematics Standards and English Language Arts Standards**

Continuing to ensure that Arizona academic content standards are vetted, approved and controlled by Arizonans, the Board creates the Arizona Academic Standards Development Committee (Committee) to advise the Board on the development and improvement of the Arizona K-12 Mathematics Standards (Math Standards) and the Arizona K-12 English Language Arts Standards (ELA Standards). The current Arizona Math Standards and ELA Standards will be the starting point for the process, and initial comments shall be sought to inform the scope of revisions to the standards, in order to ensure Arizona's academic standards are excellent and rigorous.

The Superintendent shall designate an employee or employees of the Department Division of K-12 Academic Standards to provide support to and assist the Committee and its subcommittees in the execution of the duties under this policy.

The Board directs the Committee to complete the required processes so that the Board may adopt revised standards before the close of the 2015-2016 school year.

In order to allow the Committee to begin its work before the summer, the Board delegates the duty to appoint members of the Committee, and to select a Chairperson of the Committee from among the Board members appointed, to a 3 member committee of the Board comprised of Greg Miller as Chair, Chuck Schmidt and Jared Taylor. Appointments to the Committee shall be an equal mix of people who have and who have not participated in the standards development process in the past. Applications for the Committee are due to the State Board by May 6, 2015, and appointments shall be made to the Committee on or before **May** 15, 2015. Applications are available at <http://www.azed.gov/state-board-education/state-board-advisory-committees>.

Arizona Standards Development Committee

A. The Arizona Academic Standards Development Committee ("Committee") shall act in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education in regard to matters related to the development and revision of statewide academic standards in Mathematics (Math Standards) and English Language Arts (ELA Standards).

B. The Committee shall consist of seventeen members, comprised of the following:

1. Four members of the Arizona State Board of Education, including the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
2. Two members representing the business community in the state.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Three deans of colleges of education or directors of Board approved teacher preparation programs – with at least one representative of an institution under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents, and one representative of an institution under the jurisdiction of an Arizona community college.

4. Three parents, including one parent of an elementary school student in the state, one parent of a middle school student in the state, and one parent of a high school student in the state.

5. One elementary classroom teacher.

6. One secondary classroom teacher.

7. One administrator of a charter school in the state.

8. One administrator of a unified school district in the state.

9. One member of a school district governing board.

C. A quorum shall be a majority of members of the Committee. A quorum is necessary to conduct business. An affirmative vote of the majority of the members present is needed to take action.

D. The Committee shall:

1. Hold meetings as often as necessary to conduct the Committee's business.

2. Adopt a timeline for the development, review, revision and recommendation for Board adoption of replacement Arizona Math Standards and Arizona ELA Standards, which addresses all the duties of the Committee.

3. Provide to the Board monthly reports on the progress of the Committee's work.

4. Establish subcommittees of ELA and mathematics content experts representing all grades.

a. The subcommittee members shall be selected from K-12 school district and charter schools, higher education faculty, teacher professional organizations, and foundations providing content expertise and professional development.

b. Subcommittees are subject to the same quorum and public meeting requirements as those required of the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

c. The subcommittees shall prepare the draft standards and submit recommendations to be circulated for public comment and considered by the Committee.

5. Oversee the process for the solicitation of comments regarding the existing standards and proposed revisions to the standards, and direct the subcommittees to consider the comments as they contemplate revisions to the standards. Comments shall be solicited from the public and from nationally and locally recognized content experts. The process for soliciting public comment shall include, at a minimum, opportunities to collect public comments via:

a. Public hearings across the state, coordinated with the County Superintendents, to help ensure and maximize statewide input and participation; and

b. Public meetings of the Committee, which shall include meetings which allow for interactive participation of the public outside of Maricopa County;

c. Electronic means, which shall be available on a website hosted by the State Board of Education dedicated to the Arizona Academic Standards Development Process, and include e-mail and online submission.

6. Receive, review and circulate for public comment final draft standards proposed by the subcommittees. Final draft revisions shall be circulated for public comment for no less than 45 days.

7. Recommend for Board approval revised Arizona Math Standards and Arizona ELA Standards. The Committee recommendation shall include a summary of all comments received and considered, a copy of all comments received, a detailed description of any changes between the current standards and the final recommendations proposed for board approval, a transition timeline and implementation plan.

E. The Superintendent shall designate an employee or employees of the Department to:

1. Provide support to and assist the Committee and its subcommittees to execute the duties under this policy.

2. Solicit and collect applications for participation on the subcommittees, which shall include a resume that details the applicant's certifications, grades taught, experience in curriculum development, educational background, any past participation in standards development, and current employment. The Department shall provide the Committee with all applications and supporting materials of qualified applicants for subcommittee membership, and the Department shall make recommendations to the Committee for the membership of the subcommittees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Board Consideration of Committee Recommendations

Upon receipt of the Committee recommendation, the Board shall include on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board an informational presentation by the Committee on the proposed Arizona Math Standards and Arizona ELA Standards.

The Board shall solicit public comments on the recommendation for at least 3 weeks following the Board meeting in which the recommendation is presented. Any comments received shall be considered by the Committee and, if necessary, the Committee shall provide an amended recommendation to the Board.

The Board may consider adoption of the standards once the Committee makes a final recommendation based on the comments received by the Board.