# Agenda Item: G

## Date: February 2, 2023

## Title: Report on the Timeline for the Review of the *English Standards of Learning*

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## Presenter: Jill Nogueras, English Coordinator

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## Purpose of Presentation:

For information only: No action required.

## Executive Summary:

The *English Standards of Learning* were adopted in 2017 and are scheduled for review in 2023-2024. The 2017 English Standards of Learning and may be viewed online.

Goal 2 of the Virginia Board of Education (Board) Comprehensive Plan: 2018-2023 calls for the

development of rigorous standards to promote college and career readiness through a review of all of the Standards of Learning (SOL) on a regular basis.

Using an established review process and criteria, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

plans a review of the current *English Standards of Learning* according to the attached

projected timelines (Attachment A – Projected Timeline for the Review and Revision of the

*English Standards of Learning* Document). The VDOE will seek input from K-12 educators, faculty from institutions of higher education, the business community, professional education organizations, citizens, and parent groups, as delineated in the timeline.

## Action Requested:

No action requested.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive this report.

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

## Background Information and Statutory Authority:

The *Code of Virgini*a requires a review of Virginia’s Standards of Learning every seven years.

Section [22.1-253.13:1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13.2/section22.1-253.13:1/) B states, in part, that “[t]he Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis.” Additionally, the Virginia Literacy Act imposes additional requirements that involve the use of “evidence-based literacy instruction” and “science-based reading research,” which will guide the development of *English Standards of Learning.*

The *English Standards of Learning* were adopted in 2017, are scheduled for review in 2023, and anticipated adoption in 2024. The standards for English may be accessed on [the Board’s website](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/k-12-standards-instruction/english-reading-literacy/standards-of-learning).

Additionally, the [*Virginia Literacy Act*](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+ful+CHAP0549) requires the following:

“Evidence-based literacy instruction" means structured instructional practices, including sequential, systematic, explicit, and cumulative teaching, that (i) are based on reliable, trustworthy, and valid evidence consistent with science-based reading research; (ii) are used in core or general instruction, supplemental instruction, intervention services, and intensive intervention services; (iii) have a demonstrated record of success in adequately increasing students' reading competency, vocabulary, oral language, and comprehension and in building mastery of the foundational reading skills of phonological and phonemic awareness, alphabetic principle, phonics, spelling, and text reading fluency; and (iv) are able to be differentiated in order to meet the individual needs of students.

"Science-based reading research" means research that (i) applies rigorous, systematic, and objective observational or experimental procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading development, reading instruction, and reading and writing difficulties and (ii) explains how proficient reading and writing develop, why some children have difficulties developing key literacy skills, and how schools can best assess and instruct early literacy, including the use of evidence-based literacy instruction practices to promote reading and writing achievement.

## Timetable for Further Review/Action:

It is anticipated that proposed revisions to the Virginia English *Standards of Learning* will be brought to the Board for first review in November 2023.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The Department administers the state standards review process. The agency’s existing resources can absorb this responsibility at this time. (Pending funding)

**Schedule for the Review of**

**The 2024 *English Standards of Learning***

**Components of revision and proposed timeline estimates are based on the allocation and availability of state funding (pending).**

**February 2023**

The Virginia Department of Education (Department) presents the schedule for the review of the *English Standards of Learning* to the Virginia Board of Education (Board).

A Superintendent’s Memorandum is distributed that:

* announces the schedule of the review process;
* announces the availability of *English Standards of Learning* review/comment pages on the Department’s Web site;
* requests that division superintendents share information about the Web site with instructional staff; and
* requests that division superintendents encourage staff to apply to serve on the 2024 *English Standards of Learning* revision committee.

The Department posts on its Web site an SOL review/comment Web page for the 2017 *English Standards of Learning*. The page will be active for 30 days.

**March 2023**

The Department will host regional in-person and virtual community engagement sessions.

* These sessions are to be held as listening sessions on suggested edits and content to remain in the Standards and Curriculum Framework. All community engagement sessions will be available to the public for registration, highlighting opportunities for industry representatives, content professional organizations (VSLA and VATE), educators, applicable DOD and military partners, and parents to provide feedback.
* These sessions will be advertised to all individuals participating in the advisory taskforces or workgroups related to the Virginia Literacy Act and the Virginia Literacy Screener.

**April 2023**

The Department identifies members of the English Education Advisory Board and Standards Revision Steering Committees.

* The English Education Advisory Board (EEAB) willbe composed of parent representation, relevant business and industry/military representatives, higher education staff (SCHEV and VCCS), school division leadership, classroom teachers, the VDOE English program team and literacy experts, including teachers leading and supporting implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act. This group will provide on-going, one-on-one and full-panel feedback to the revision team leader including practical perspectives on the standards and the recommended revisions.
* The Standards Revision Steering Committee will be composed of English language arts teachers, English curriculum specialists, and VDOE English program staff.

The Department identifies members of the K-12 Standards Revision Committees.

* The K-12 Standards Revision Committee includes the steering committeeand regional

representation of English educators with K-12 English teaching experience and specific content expertise.  This committee will include teachers, including special education teachers, division English specialists, reading specialists, and building administrators.

**May 2023-June 2023**

The Department staff aggregates and conducts a preliminary analysis of the public comments.

The English Education Advisory Board and the Standards Revision Steering Committee (a subcommittee of the K-12 Standards Review Committee) meet for two days to:

* Review and analyze statewide public comment;
* Review and select national and international documents and reports necessary to inform the revision process;
* Make recommendations for potential revisions to the standards.

The Standards Revision Steering Committee meet separately to:

* Receive training on leading grade-band teams through the standards revision process;
* Review and aggregate recommendations from the English Education Advisory Board work sessions.

**June 2023**

The K-12 Standards Review Committees meet to:

* Review summary of statewide public comment and analysis of the steering committee and English Education Advisory Board;
* Review national and international documents and reports selected by the steering committee and English Education Advisory Board;
* Make recommendations for potential revisions to the standards.

**August 2023**

Department staff prepare a draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* based upon the work of the EEA Board, Standards Revision Steering Committee, and K-12 Standards Review Committee.

The Department shares a draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* with English educators in institutions of higher education across Virginia and professional organizations that focus on English education for review and comment.

The Department staff and the Standards Review Steering Committee review comments from higher education staff and business community representatives on the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* and make necessary revisions.

**November 2023**

The Department presents the draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* to the Board for first review.

A Superintendent’s Memorandum announces the process for submitting public comment and attending public hearings on the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning*. The public comment period will be active for 30 days.

**November 2023-December 2023**  
Department staff reviews statewide public comment and makes edits to the draft standards, as necessary.

The Department meets virtually with the English Education Advisory Board to seek feedback on the revised draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning*.

**January 2024**

The Department presents the final draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* to the Board for final approval.

The Department presents the schedule for review of the *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*.

**February 2024**

**Components of revision and proposed timeline estimates are based on the allocation and availability of state funding (pending).**

A Superintendent’s Memorandum is distributed that:

* announces the schedule of the review process;
* announces the availability of 2017 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* review/comment pages on the Department of Education’s Web site;
* requests that division superintendents share information about the Web site with instructional staff; and
* requests that division superintendents encourage staff to apply to serve on the *English Standards of Learning* Curriculum Framework Revision Committee.

The Department posts on its Web site an SOL review/comment Web page for the 2017 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*.  The page will be active for 30 days.

**March 2024**

The Department will host regional in-person and virtual community engagement sessions.

* These sessions are to be held as listening sessions on suggested edits and content to remain in the Standards and Curriculum Framework. All community engagement sessions will be available to the public for registration, highlighting opportunities for industry representatives, content professional organizations (VSLA and VATE), educators, applicable DOD and military partners, and parents to provide feedback.

The Department identifies members of the English Education Advisory Board and Curriculum Framework Revision Steering Committees.

* The English Education Advisory Board (EEAB) willbe composed of parent representation, relevant business and industry/military representatives, higher education staff (SCHEV and VCCS), school division leadership, classroom teachers, and the VDOE English program team.  This group will provide on-going, one-on-one and full-panel feedback to the revision team leader including practical perspectives on the standards and the recommended revisions.
* The Curriculum Framework Revision Steering Committee will be composed of English language arts teachers, English curriculum specialists, and VDOE English program staff.

The Department identifies members of the K-12 Curriculum Framework Revision Committees.

* The K-12 Curriculum Framework Revision Committee includes the steering committeeand regional representation of English educators with K-12 English teaching experience and specific content expertise.  This committee will include teachers, division English specialists, reading specialists, and building administrators.

**April 2024-June 2024**

The English Education Advisory Board and the Curriculum Framework Revision Steering Committee (a subcommittee of the K-12 Curriculum Framework Review Committee) meet for two days in-person to:

* Review and analyze statewide public comment;
* Review and select national and international documents and reports necessary to inform the revision process;
* Make recommendations for potential revisions to the standards.

The Curriculum Framework Revision Steering Committee meet separately to:

* Receive training on leading grade-band teams through the standards revision process;
* Review and aggregate recommendations from the English Education Advisory Board work sessions.

**June 2024**

The K-12 Curriculum Framework Review Committees meet to:

* Review summary of statewide public comment and analysis of the steering committee and English Education Advisory Board;
* Review national and international documents and reports selected by the steering committee and English Education Advisory Board;
* Make recommendations for potential revisions to the standards.

Department staff prepare a draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* based upon the work of the EEA Board, Standards Revision Steering Committee, and K-12 Standards Review Committee.

**September 2024**

The Department shares a draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* with English educators in institutions of higher education across Virginia and professional organizations that focus on English education for review and comment.

Department staff and the Curriculum Framework Review Steering Committee review comments from higher education staff and business community representatives on the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* and make necessary revisions.

**October 2024**

The Department presents the draft of the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning* *Curriculum Framework* to the Board.

A Superintendent’s Memorandum announces the process for submitting public comment and attending public hearings on the proposed 2024 *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*. The public comment period will be active for 30 days.

**November 2024-December 2024**  
Department staff reviews statewide public comment and makes edits to the draft standards, as necessary.

**December 2024**

The Department meets virtually with the English Education Advisory Board to seek feedback on the revised draft of the proposed *English Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*.

**January 2025**  
The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed English *Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* to the Board for final review and adoption.

The Department posts final documents on its Web site.

**2024-2025 School Year**

The Department provides a crosswalk between the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* and the 2024 *English Standards of Learning*.

School divisions incorporate the new standards into local written curriculum for inclusion in the taught curriculum during the 2025-2026 school year.

**2025-2026 School Year**

Crosswalk year: 2017 English Standards of Learning and 2024 *English Standards of Learning* included in the curriculum.

Standards of Learning assessments in spring 2026 measure the 2017 *English Standards of Learning* and include the field test items measuring the 2024 *English Standards of Learning*.

The Department will provide professional development and resources on the 2024 *Standards of Learning* and *Curriculum Framework.*

The Department will initiate the process for adoption of textbooks aligned to the 2024 *English Standards of Learning*.

**2026-2027 School Year**

Full-implementation year: Standards of Learning assessments measure the 2024 *English Standards of Learning.*