Attachment A

Superintendent’s Memo #044-23

February 24, 2023

# Timeline for the Review and Revision of the

# Science Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework Documents

## Development Process - 2018 Science Standards of Learning

**January 2022 through May 2023**

The Virginia Department of Education (Department) will work with educator consultants to prepare the draft standards and curriculum framework that will be used in the development of standards and curriculum frameworks for the 11 Virginia Board of Education (Board) approved courses that currently do not have standards in place.

**February 2023**

The Department presents the projected timeline for the development and review of the *Science Standards of Learning* and *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* to the Board.

The Department posts the standards development and revision timeline on the website.

**February 2023 through June 2023**

The Department shares draft initial documents (as completed) with parents, industry, institutes of higher education, and educators to review content in the standards and curriculum framework for content accuracy and to inform the forthcoming work of the Standards Development Committee.

**April 2023**

The Department garners feedback from educators and Department leadership concerning current structure of the science curriculum frameworks.

The Department requests division superintendents share information about the development process with instructional staff and encourage science teachers, principals, administrators, content specialists, or others who have expertise with the content areas and the standards to apply to serve on the 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* Standards Development Committee to develop draft standards and curriculum framework for Level II courses and Environmental Science.

**May 2023**

The Department convenes a Science Education Advisory Board (SEAB) to support the standards revision process and in preparation for the planned stakeholder input and public comment, which will be solicited in October 2023, March 2024, and June-August 2025.

The SEAB will be comprised of 35 members to include stakeholder representatives including; parents, relevant business and industry/military representatives, higher education staff, school and division level leadership, classroom teachers, and Department staff.

**July 2023**

The Science Standards Development Committee meets for five days (two days virtually and three days in-person) to:

* Review initial draft standards and curriculum frameworks;
* Review feedback from institutes of higher education and educators;
* Review national and international documents and reports; and
* Make recommendations for potential revisions to the draft standards and curriculum framework for the 11 courses that currently do not have standards or curriculum frameworks.

**August 2023 through December 2023**

The Department and consultants revise Level II and Environmental Science course documents based on feedback from Standards Development Committee.

**Revision Process - 2018 Science Standards of Learning**

**October 2023**

The Department prepares for the standards review process with the creation of public comment feedback forms and collaborates with leadership in creating a timeline and process for submitting public comment on the revision of the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning and Curriculum Framework.*

**November 2023**

Superintendent’s Memorandum is published by the Department to:

* Announce the schedule of the standards review process;
* Announce the availability of a standards review process page posted on the Department’s website, including a timeline and procedures for submitting public comment on the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning* and *2018 Science Standards* *of Learning Curriculum Framework*; and
* Request division superintendents to share information about the standards review process page with instructional staff and encourage staff to apply to serve on the 2025 Science Standards of Learning (SOL) Standards Revision Committee.

**January 2024 through February 2024**

The Department posts the review process page on its website that includes a timeline and process for submitting public comment on the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning* and *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*. The public comment period will be from January 2-February 29, 2024.  

Roundtables will be held to solicit parent and public input and facilitate public comment on the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning*. The locations and times of the roundtables will be shared in a future Superintendent's Memo, social media campaign, and on the VDOE Website.

**March 2024**

Department staff aggregate and conduct a preliminary analysis of submitted public comments.

**April 2025**

The Department will convene the Science Education Advisory Board (SEAB) to review public feedback and support the revision process.

Department staff identifies science educators to serve on the 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* Standards Revision Committee.

**May 2024**

A Science Standards Revision Steering Committee (Steering Committee), comprised of a science teacher, science curriculum specialist, or school leader from each of the grade level/discipline science revision committees, will be formed to facilitate the work of the Standards Revision Committee and to ensure continuity of concepts and practices between and across science disciplines.

The Department selects the 16 member Steering Committee from the Science Standards Revision Committee applicants. The Steering Committee will be comprised of 16 members; one for each grade level K-6, life science, physical science, biology, chemistry, Earth science, and physics. Three additional science content educators will be a part of the Steering Committee to oversee vertical alignment between courses.  The Steering Committee will meet for four days (two days virtually and two days in-person) to:

* Review and analyze statewide public comment;
* Review recommendations from SEAB and Department leadership;
* Review and select national and international documents and reports;
* Receive training on leading grade-band teams through the standards revision process; and
* Make recommendations for potential revisions to the standards.

**July 2024**

A Standards Revision Committee composed of teachers, science specialists, and school leaders will be selected on the basis of subject area expertise, years in the teaching field, experience teaching diverse populations (gifted, special education, EL), and curriculum writing experience.  Each committee will be composed of 5 teachers/leaders. The Standards Revision Committee, with facilitation from Steering Committee, meets for six days (two days virtually and four days in-person) to:

* Review recommendations from SEAB and Department leadership;
* Review a summary of statewide public comment;
* Review national and international documents and reports selected by the Steering Committee; and
* Make recommendations for potential revisions to the standards and curriculum framework.

**August 2024 through December 2024**

Department staff prepare a draft of the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* based upon the work of the Steering and Revision Committees.

**January 2025**

The Department shares a draft of the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* with scientists and science educators in institutions of higher education across Virginia and professional organizations that focus on science education for review and comment.

The Department shares a draft of the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* with representatives of the business  community for review and comment.

The Department meets with the Science Education Advisory Board (SEAB) to seek feedback on the draft of the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*.

**March 2025**

Department staff and the Steering Committee review comments from stakeholder groups representing higher education staff, business community representatives, and the SEAB on the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* and make revisions.

**April 2025**

The Department meets with Board members to provide an overview of the development and revision process, summaries of feedback from stakeholders and public comment, summary of how feedback impacted revisions, and initial draft proposed documents prior to the May 2025 Board meeting.

**May 2025**

The Department Science team introduces the draft of the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* to the Board.

**June 2025**

The Department presents the draft of the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* to the Board for first review.

The Board will conduct public hearings and facilitate a process for submitting public comment on the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*. A subsequent Superintendent’s Memorandum will provide the schedule for the Board’s public hearings and opportunities to submit public comments. The public comment period will be active for 90 days due to the volume of documents and content to be reviewed, and to allow flexibility for stakeholders during the summer months.

**August 2025 through September 2025**

In-person and virtual public hearings will be held as prescribed by the Board at several locations in Virginia. These public hearings will provide parents, educators, and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback needed to inform revisions to the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and the 2025 *Science Standards Learning Curriculum Framework*.

**October 2025**

Department staff reviews statewide public comment and make edits, as necessary.

**November 2025**

The Department meets with the SEAB to seek feedback on the revised proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework*.

**December 2025**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* to the Board for final review and adoption. The Department posts the final documents on its website.

**May 2026**

Department staff provide a crosswalk between the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning* and the 2025 *Science Standards of Learning*.

**January 2026 through July 2026**

School divisions incorporate the new standards into local written curricula for inclusion in the taught curricula during the 2026-2027 school year.

**2026-2027 Crosswalk Year**

2018 *Science Standards of Learning* and 2025 *Science Standards of Learning* included in the written and taught curricula. SOL assessments in spring 2027 measure the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning* and include field test items measuring the 2025 *Science Standards of Learning*.

**2027-2028 School Year Full-implementation Year**

Written and taught curricula reflect the 2025 *Science Standards of Learning*. Standards of Learning assessments measure the 2025 *Science Standards of Learning*.