

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: L

Date: January 28, 2016

Title	Report on the Timeline for the Review of the <i>Science Standards of Learning</i>		
Presenter	Mr. Eric M. Rhoades, Director, Office of Science and Health Education, Division of Instruction		
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Purpose of Presentation:

For information only. No action required.

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

No action requested.

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
X	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal 2: In its [2012-2017 Comprehensive Plan](#), the Board of Education (BOE) commits to raising the bar on academic performance standards to ensure global competitiveness of Virginia’s graduates. “Building on the success of the Standards of Learning program, more rigorous and relevant expectations will continue to be implemented that meet or exceed national and international benchmarks for college and career readiness.” In the plan (page 22), the BOE has set the adoption of revised *Science Standards of Learning* for 2017.

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

[Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-253.13:1-B...](#) “The 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...”

The *Science Standards of Learning* were adopted by the BOE in 2010 and, as indicated in the BOE's Comprehensive Plan, are scheduled for review in 2016-2017. The current standards for science may be viewed online at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/science/index.shtml.

Summary of Important Issues:

Using an established review process and criteria, the Virginia Department of Education plans a review of the current *Science Standards of Learning* according to the attached projected timeline (Attachment A - Schedule for the Review of *Science Standards of Learning*).

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The Department of Education administers the state standards review process. The agency's existing resources can absorb this responsibility at this time.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction anticipates presenting proposed revised *Science Standards of Learning* for the Board of Education's first review in October 2016.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

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

**SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF
THE SCIENCE STANDARDS OF LEARNING**

- January 2016** The Department of Education presents the schedule for the review of the *Science Standards of Learning* to the Board of Education.
- February 2016** A Superintendent’s Memorandum is distributed that:
- announces the schedule of the review process;
 - announces the availability of a *Science Standards of Learning* review/comment page 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 submit nominations for review team members.
- The Department of Education posts on its Web site an SOL review/comment page for the 2010 *Science Standards of Learning*. The page will be active for 30 days.
- March 2016** The Department of Education identifies members of the review team and other stakeholders.
- April 2016** The Department of Education aggregates and conducts a preliminary analysis of the comments entered on the Web page.
- June - July 2016** The *Science Standards of Learning* review team meets for four days to:
- analyze statewide Web page input;
 - review national and international documents and reports as necessary; and
 - make recommendations for potential changes.
- August 2016** The Department of Education prepares a draft of the standards that reflects the review team’s comments.
- September 2016** The Department of Education and the steering committee (a subgroup of the review team) meet to discuss and review the draft *Science Standards of Learning* for first review by the Board of Education.
- A draft of the proposed *Science Standards of Learning* is made available for review and comment to science educators in institutions of higher education and professional organizations that focus on science education.
- October 2016** The Department of Education presents the draft *Science Standards of Learning* document to the Board of Education for first review.

- November 2016** The proposed *Science Standards of Learning* document is distributed for public comment. The document is placed on the Virginia Department of Education’s Web site for review.
- November - December 2016** Public hearings are held as prescribed by the Board of Education. Public comment is reviewed, and revisions are made as warranted.
- January 2017** The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed *Science Standards of Learning* to the Board of Education for final review and adoption. The final document is posted on the Department of Education’s Web site.

**THE SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF
THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**

- January 2017** The Department of Education identifies a review team to assist with the review of The Curriculum Framework. The Curriculum Framework defines the knowledge, skills, and practices that enable classroom teachers to teach the critical content more effectively and provides a foundation for curriculum development. In addition, the Framework will assist in developing and reviewing items to be included on the Standards of Learning assessments.
- February 2017** The Department and review team members meet to review the Curriculum Framework and make any edits required for realignment with the revised *Science Standards of Learning*.
- March 2017** A draft of the proposed *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* is made available for review and comment to science educators in institutions of higher education and professional organizations that focus on science education.
- April 2017** The Department of Education presents the draft of The Curriculum Framework to the Board for first review.
- May 2017** The Department of Education posts on its Web site the *Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework* for review and public comment. The page will be active for 30 days.
- July 2017** The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed The Curriculum Framework to the Board of Education for final review and adoption. The final document is posted on the Department of Education’s Web site.