

CHAPTER 101

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 94-1207

BY REPRESENTATIVES Williams, Berry, Anderson, Dyer, Keller, Knox, Pierson, Rupert, Schauer, Sullivan, Tucker, Wright, Blue, DeGette, and Romero;
also SENATORS Hopper, Cassidy, Gallagher, Mares, Martinez, Mendez, Pastore, and Peterson.

AN ACT

CONCERNING ADOPTION OF CONTENT STANDARDS FOR THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 22-53-405 (1) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1988 Repl. Vol., as amended, is amended to read:

22-53-405. Powers and duties of the state standards and assessments development and implementation council. (1) (a) On or before August 1, 1994, the council shall develop and recommend to the board for adoption first priority state model content standards in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography. As a second priority, the council shall develop and recommend to the board for adoption state model content standards in the areas of art, music, physical education, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, and civics.

SECTION 2. 22-53-406 (1) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1988 Repl. Vol., as amended, is amended to read:

22-53-406. Adoption of state model content standards, state assessments, and timelines - resource bank. (1) (a) On or before January 1, 1995, the board, after careful consideration of the recommendations of the council and in consultation with the commission, shall adopt first priority state model content standards in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography. As a second priority, the board, after careful consideration of the recommendations of the council and in consultation with the commission, shall adopt state model content standards in the areas of art, music, physical education, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, and civics.

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

SECTION 3. 22-53-407 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1988 Repl. Vol., as amended, is amended to read:

22-53-407. Adoption of content standards by districts. (1) In accordance with timelines adopted by the board pursuant to section 22-53-406 (2), but not later than January 1, 1997, each district shall adopt first priority content standards in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography which meet or exceed the state model content standards adopted pursuant to section 22-53-406 (1). In accordance with timelines adopted by the state board, districts shall also adopt second priority content standards in the areas of art, music, physical education, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, and civics. Content standards may be adopted for each grade level or may be adopted for groupings of grade levels. In adopting content standards, each district shall seek input from and shall work in cooperation with educators, parents, students, business persons, members of the general community who are representative of the cultural diversity of the district, and the district's advisory accountability committee created pursuant to section 22-7-104.

SECTION 4. 22-53-409 (1) (a) and (3), Colorado Revised Statutes, 1988 Repl. Vol., as amended, are amended to read:

22-53-409. Assessments. (1) (a) Effective January 1, 1996, the department shall implement a Colorado student assessment program under which it shall administer statewide assessments, adopted by the board pursuant to section 22-53-406, in the first priority areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography on a stratified, random sampling basis to provide accurate and detailed information to the people of Colorado on student academic achievement and to corroborate the quality of the results provided by district assessments. Following adoption of state model content standards in the second priority areas of art, music, physical education, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, and civics, such areas shall be included in the Colorado student assessment program. Such statewide assessments shall be administered in grades four, eight, and ten. The timetable for administering such assessments shall be established by the board. The initial statewide assessment shall be considered a baseline assessment.

(3) In accordance with timelines adopted by the board pursuant to section 22-53-406 (2), but not later than January 1, 1998, each district shall administer assessments adopted pursuant to the district plan required under section 22-53-407 (2) in the first priority areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography to students at the fourth, eighth, and tenth grade levels. Following adoption of content standards in the second priority areas of art, music, physical education, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, and civics, such areas shall be included in the district assessments at the fourth, eighth, and tenth grade levels. Results of such assessments shall be reported to the department pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of this section. Nothing in this subsection (3) shall prevent districts from administering assessments at levels other than the fourth, eighth, and tenth grade levels.

SECTION 5. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: April 7, 1994