

REVIEW AND REVISION PLAN

COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS



State law requires a review and revision of the Colorado Academic Standards every six years, with the first review to be completed by July 2018. CDE is currently developing a plan to guide the upcoming standards review and revision process. This document provides an overview of the guiding principles, roles and responsibilities, and a timeline of activities for the first review and revision process.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles are a useful tool as they define the values of the State Board of Education which will inform decision-making throughout the standards review and revision process. Initial guiding principles are offered here for the review and revision process and for the revisions to the standards themselves.

PRINCIPLES FOR THE REVIEW AND REVISION PROCESS

Principles define the values of the State Board of Education which in turn will guide the department as it facilitates the standards review and revision process.

The standards review and revision process will be:

- *Transparent:* The department will make every attempt to ensure the decisions and processes for the standards review and revision process are public.
- *Inclusive:* The department will strive to engage key stakeholders in each phase of the standards review and revision process. The review process will include substantial and frequent opportunities for the public to weigh in on every standard.
- *Research-informed:* Throughout the standards review and revision process, the department will base its recommendations on research, lessons learned from other states, and objective, third-party reviews of the Colorado Academic Standards.
- *Consistent:* The standards review and revision process will be consistent with statutory requirements and with past standards reviews.
- *Substantive:* The standards review and revision process will focus on the substance of the actual standards themselves.
- *Improvement-oriented:* The purpose of the standards review and revision process is to improve what exists today rather than start from scratch. The review process will improve Colorado's current standards based on the feedback of Colorado educators, education leaders, parents, students, community and business leaders, and higher education leaders.

PRINCIPLES FOR THE DESIGN AND CONTENT OF THE COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Principles define the values of the State Board of Education which in turn will guide the department and the standards review and revision committees as they develop recommended revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards.

The Colorado Academic Standards will:

- *Be Aligned:* The Colorado Academic Standards will align with the legislative requirements articulated within Senate Bill 08-212, Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K). This includes (1) alignment with the postsecondary workforce readiness description and career and technical education standards, (2) comparability with the highest national and international standards, and (3) the development of a range of skills critical to preparing students for the twenty-first-century workforce and for active citizenship.



- *Describe Learning Expectations for All Students:* The Colorado Academic Standards will define what all graduates of Colorado’s schools should know, understand and be able to do. The learning expectations will be necessary for all students but only sufficient for some. That is, the standards will describe the floor not the ceiling for student learning.
- *Lead to Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness:* The Colorado Academic Standards will provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are successful in college, careers and life.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Colorado Academic Standards form the foundation of Colorado’s public education system by defining what every graduate of a public school in Colorado should know, understand, and be able to do. Getting the standards right relies on the inclusion of all of those with a stake in the quality of education Colorado students receive.

The State Board of Education has the statutory authority (section 22-7-1005 C.R.S.) to adopt educational standards for public schools in Colorado as well as approve appropriate revisions to the standards on a six-year cycle.

Stakeholders are critical to the standards review and revision process and include Colorado educators, school and district leaders, parents, students, community members, and leaders from higher education and business. Stakeholders provide input to the standards review and revision processes and feedback on proposed revisions.

Standards review committees are the working groups for each of the thirteen areas where Colorado has standards. The review committees will utilize feedback from stakeholders and research to inform recommended revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards.

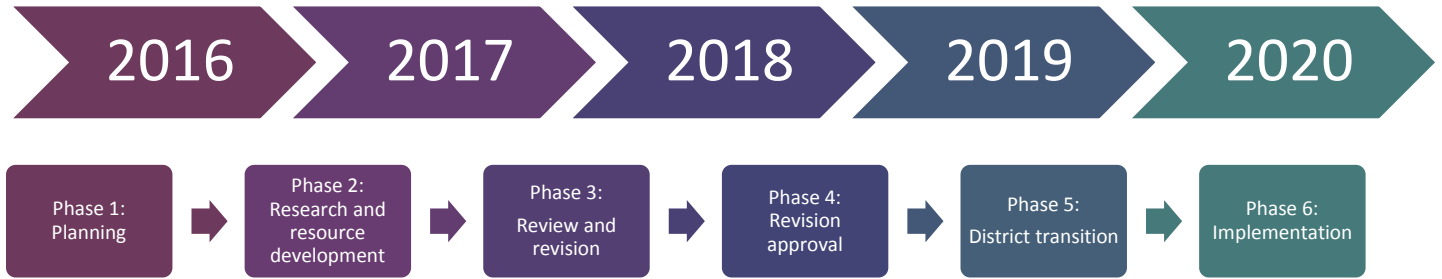
CDE staff is responsible for facilitating the standards review and revision process. This includes commissioning research to inform the process, designing and conducting the review and revision process, and staffing the standards review committees in order to produce recommended revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards for State Board of Education consideration.





Standards Review and Revision Timeline

The proposed standards review and revision process includes six phases: (1) planning, (2) research and resource development, (3) standards review and revision, (4) revision approval, (5) district transition, and (6) implementation.



Phase 1: Initial Planning

Overview: The initial planning phase of the standards revision process involves the development and successive iteration of a full standards revision project plan that incorporates the feedback and approval of the CDE Executive Team.

Purpose: The purpose of this phase of the standards revision process is to guide the initial planning stages of the standards revision process from inception through completion. Following this initial planning phase, the department will continuously revisit its project plan throughout the review and revision process to make necessary additions and adjustment.

Key Deliverables:

1. An initial standards revision process proposal.
2. A draft standards revision work plan.
3. Initial input from State Board of Education.
4. A fully developed standards revision project plan.

Timeline: April – December 2016





Phase 2: Research and Resource Development

Phase 2a: Research

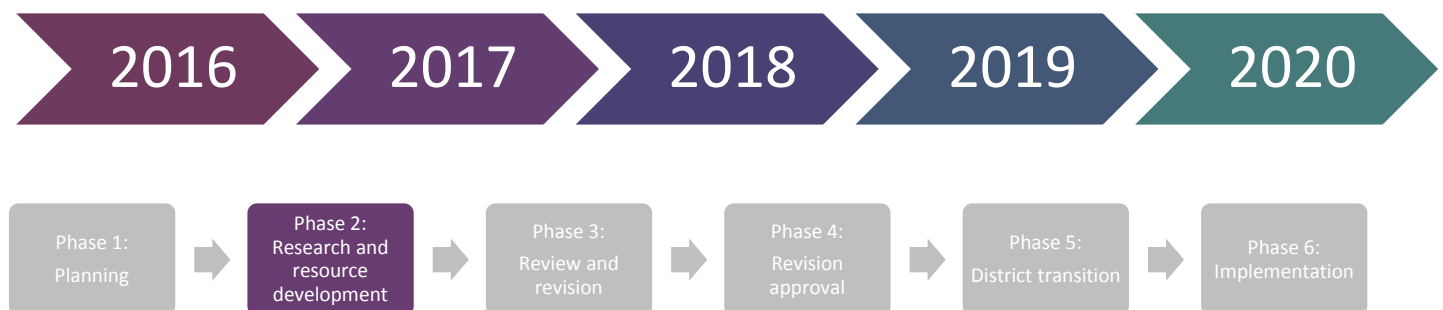
Overview: The research phase of the standards revision process is intended to ensure that the department effectively supports the State Board of Education in meeting statutory requirements related to the scope and quality of the Colorado Academic Standards. The Colorado Department of Education is committed to providing rigorous academic standards of the highest quality that identify the knowledge and skills that a student should acquire as the student progresses from preschool through elementary and secondary education (section 22-7-1005(1) C.R.S.). The standards must be comparable in scope, relevance, and rigor to the highest national and international standards that have been implemented successfully (section 22-7-1005(3)(f) C.R.S.).

Purpose: The purpose of this phase of the standards revision process is to provide the department and State Board of Education with research on successful processes other states have used when reviewing and revising standards and with national and international benchmarking reports of the current Colorado Academic Standards. The research conducted in this phase will inform the department’s standards revision process planning.

Key Deliverables:

1. An overview scan of all states revision processes conducted since 2010.
2. Peer profile reports of other states’ standards revision practices, including effective stakeholder engagement processes and committee selection/management.
3. National and international benchmarking reports for each content area within the Colorado Academic Standards.
4. A general survey of stakeholders’ perceptions of the quality of the Colorado Academic Standards and input on the standards review and revision process.
5. An online standards review system.
6. An initial communications plan.

Timeline: May – December 2016





Phase 2b: Committee Application, Selection, and Initial Engagement

Overview: CDE will conduct an open and transparent standards review and revision process by engaging educators, business leaders, representatives from higher education, and parents/community members in standards review and revision committees. CDE will solicit committee participation through an online application process for each of the thirteen standards areas. Applicants will be required to demonstrate their content area expertise and willingness to serve. Applications will be considered using a blind-review process, considering only the applicants’ qualifications.

Purpose: The purpose of this phase of the standards revision process is to fully articulate the process by which committee members will be recruited and selected.

Key Deliverables:

1. Articulated roles and responsibilities for review committee members, chairpersons, and CDE staff for the standards revision committee process.
2. Selection criteria for review committee memberships and chairpersons.
3. Applications for review committee membership.
4. Articulated review process for applications to the review committees.
5. Articulated communication process to recruit, notify, and engage committee members.
6. Orientation plan for review committee members and chairpersons.

Timeline: December 2016 – January 2017



Phase 3: Standards Review and Revision Committee Process

Overview: The standards review committees will be responsible for reviewing stakeholder feedback and benchmarking reports to inform their recommendations for revisions to each of the thirteen standards areas. All meetings of the review committees will be open to the public. All notes for the committee meetings will be shared with the State Board of Education and posted on the CDE website. CDE content specialists will staff the committees, meet with co-chairs to plan meetings, and ensure consistency across committee work plans.

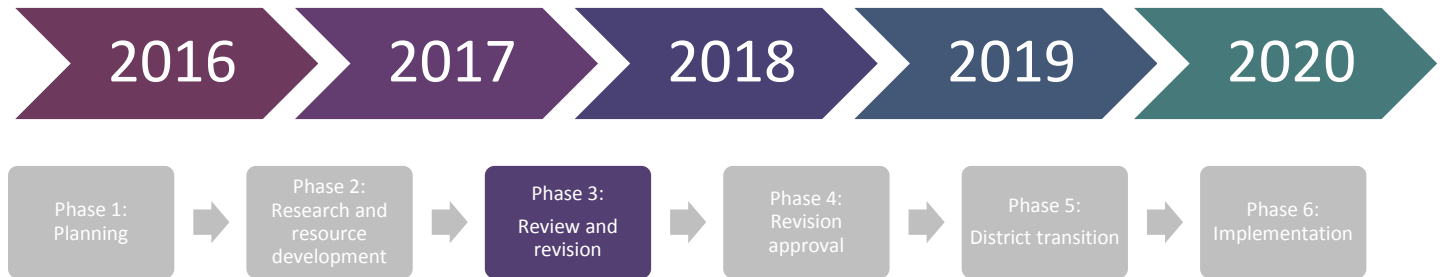
Purpose: The purpose of this phase of the standards revision process is to articulate recommendations for revisions to each content area within the Colorado Academic Standards for State Board consideration.

Key Deliverables:



1. Initial draft revision recommendations for each content area within the Colorado Academic Standards.
2. Final revision recommendations for each content area within the Colorado Academic Standards.

Timeline: Summer 2017 – March 2018



Phase 4: Standards Revision Approval Process

Overview: During the revision approval phase, representatives from each of the standards review committees will present the committee recommendations for revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards to the State Board of Education on a rotating basis. On a well-defined schedule, each committee will present to the State Board of Education on at least two occasions. The first presentation will provide the State Board of Education with an opportunity to learn about the recommended revisions, ask questions and provide feedback. Based on feedback from the State Board of Education, the committee may amend their recommended revisions prior to submitting their final recommendations. The second appearance before the State Board of Education will be a presentation of the committee’s final recommendations for approval.

Purpose: The purpose of this phase of the standards review and revision process is to allow the State Board of Education the opportunity to fully understand the committee’s recommended revisions to the Colorado Academic to inform their decisions regarding adoption of revisions.

Key Deliverables:

1. Final revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards.

Timeline: January – July 2018





Phase 5: District Transition Process

Overview: Within CAP4K, local education agencies (LEAs) are provided a two-year transition time period to review and revise their local standards to align with the Colorado Academic Standards and to align their local curriculum. LEAs may choose to adopt the revised Colorado Academic Standards. To support districts during the transition process, CDE will provide a standards revision toolkit to assist local education agencies with their work. During the transition process, the Colorado Measures of Academic Success will not change. Any changes necessary to the Colorado Measures of Academic Success will be made for the 2020-21 school year.

Purpose: The purpose of the district transition process is to allow district’s the time, tools, and resources needed to review and revise their local standards, curriculum, and assessments to align with any revisions to the Colorado Academic Standards.

Key Deliverables:

1. Communication tools designed for specific audiences: administrators, teachers, parents and community members.
2. Comparison tools for the revisions to all subject areas within the Colorado Academic Standards.
3. Tutorials on accessing and navigating revisions to the standards.
4. Guidance for transitioning to the revised standards.
5. Implementation strategies for the revised standards.
6. Webinar and recorded overviews highlighting key elements of the revised standards.
7. Sessions at state conferences sharing key elements of the revised standards.

Timeline: July 2018 – July 2020





Phase 6: Implementation

Overview: During the implementation phase, local education agencies will be fully implementing the revised Colorado Academic Standards utilizing their locally developed curriculum and assessments.

Purpose: The purpose of this phase of the standards review and revision process is to implement the revisions to the standards to ensure all students benefit from the improvements.

Key Deliverables:

1. Continued technical assistance and support from the Colorado Department of Education.

Timeline: July 2020 and ongoing

