

January 27, 2020

Dear Representatives of the House Education Committee,

My name is Lisa Webster and I am a former Summit School District School Board member effective November 2019.

Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Legislative Resolution #37 under the Student Academic Growth and Achievement section states "The Colorado Association of School Boards supports adoption of policies and legislation adjusting current timelines for Academic Standard Review. Currently, all 12 content areas are updated in one year, followed by a two-year implementation period, for a total of six years for the entire cycle."

The reason this resolution was approved during our Delegate Assembly in Fall 2019 was because "many school districts do not have the resources to review all 12 content areas in a single year. A staggered timeline which strategically matches to periodic content updates would help all districts handle the workload. A staggered timeline for review of all 12 content areas would also help teachers transition to any new requirements and allow for appropriate professional development which would reduce the stress of implementing these changes." This could particularly support elementary and preschool teachers, who are responsible for teaching multiple content areas.

This pressure is felt in both large and small, rural and metro school districts across Colorado. In addition, we know that two of these academic content areas (Math and Reading, Writing, & Communicating), as they relate to the subsequent district-level curriculum reviews and updates, can be very costly as changes are implemented. This, in turn, can overwhelm school budgets, especially in light of persistent K12 underfunding as a result of the budget stabilization factor. House Bill 20-1032 helps districts to better plan for budget impacts, and allows for a more comprehensive and systemic evaluation and implementation on ALL academic standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB20-1032.

Sincerely,

Lisa Webster  
Summit County Citizen



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Dear Representatives of the Education Committee:

My name is Mark Clark and I have had the privilege of serving Summit School District since 1980 as a teacher, building administrator and central office support. Thank you for your consideration of HB20-1032.

HB20-1032 provides for an important revision to the current structure of concurrently reviewing all content areas every six years. The current structure places a strain on the personnel, time, and money resources of smaller districts.

HB20-1032 will allow districts to more deliberately plan for how to best spread their resources of people, time and money across the various curricular areas. The focus and priority is clear: How do we ensure that every content area truly gets a seat at the table to be focused on, funded, and developed at the local level?

HB20-1032 will allow CDE to consider multiple options when determining how to best group and coordinate the revision process. For example, one possible consideration could be separating the standard areas into thirds and grouping them by complementary content as represented below in Table 1:

Table 1: Standards Reviewed in Complementary Content Groupings

	Years 1, 2	Years 3, 4	Years 5, 6	Years 1, 2 (subsequent cycle)
<b>Group A - Social interaction and communication</b> Reading, Writing, Communicating (ELA) World Languages Social Studies	<b>Begin Cycle:</b> Content Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practices</li> <li>• Content</li> </ul> Standards Review & Update	Support: Implement standards & Professional Development for both content and practices	Data monitoring	Following cycle begins
<b>Group B - STEM</b> Math Science Computer Science		<b>Begin Cycle:</b> Content Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practices</li> <li>• Content</li> </ul> Standards Review & Update	Support: Implement standards & Professional Development for both content and practices	Data monitoring
<b>Group C - Arts and Health</b> Comprehensive Health Dance Drama & Theater Arts Visual Arts Music Physical Education			<b>Begin Cycle:</b> Content Literature Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practices</li> <li>• Content</li> </ul> Standards Review & Update	Support: Implement standards & Professional Development for both content and practices



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Thanks again for your consideration of HB20-1032.

Sincerely,

Mark Clark  
Curriculum and Professional Development Coordinator  
Summit School District RE-1

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Dear House Education Committee,

It is a privilege to be writing regarding the education of the students of Colorado, specifically supporting the Timing of the Education Standards Review proposed in HB20-1032.

I have taught for a decade, and have been serving as a district curriculum and professional development coordinator in Summit School District for the past 6 years. I currently serve on a CASE Board representing curriculum and education specialists and directors across the state. Last summer, I co-facilitated a pre-conference session of the CASE conference with CDE's Director of Standards to support districts preparing for the transition to the newly approved standards, so am very familiar with the current processes.

In addition to HB20-1032 easing the burden of having to adjust to all standards shifting at one time, a benefit is that at the state process level, when CDE infuses stakeholder input into the reviews, educators who have expertise in multiple areas may now be able to participate in the processes for multiple subject areas.

HB20-1032 will also afford several opportunities we haven't had in Colorado before. There can be cross-state alignment of district curriculum review cycles of the same content areas. With this state-wide alignment of content area discussions, districts could:

- Collaboratively study and deepen local knowledge of current practices for each content area based on the state committee's literature reviews
- Coordinate vendor materials review (consider if all the CASE conference vendors focused on the same content areas at the same time!)
- Collaboratively coordinate professional development and coaching across districts with aligned content areas

These opportunities could create curriculum and professional development collaboration at a level never before seen in our state based on the content streamlining of HB20-1032.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin P. Lausten  
Curriculum and Professional Development Coordinator, Summit School District  
Director, Colorado Association of Educational Specialists