



Colorado Standards Review and Revision

October 16, 2017

Summary of Proposed Revision: Reading, Writing, and Communicating

Colorado 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. Stronger alignment of learning expectations within and across grades has been the primary focus of the review and revision process. This includes additions, deletions, revisions and reorganizations of the standards. This document provides a summary of the substantive revisions that the reading, writing and communication standards review committee recommends. Public feedback is being sought from Oct. 16 through Nov. 27, 2017. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/casreview-publicfeedbackresources>.

The review committees are proposing common changes to the structure of the standards that apply to all content areas. These include:

- Changes to the title of the *Prepared Graduate Competencies* section of the standards document to *Prepared Graduate Statements* to reduce confusion with competency-based learning systems of instruction and assessment practices.
- Changes to the title of the right side of the standards document from *21st Century Skills and Readiness Competencies* to *Academic Context and Connections*. The sections within the *Academic Context and Connections* continue to focus on inquiry, application and relevance. The committees are proposing some variation to the sub-sections in order to capture the unique subject-specific elements needed to create context for learning.

Finally, revisions to the preschool standards for all content areas contain proposed revisions to align the expectations with Colorado's Early Learning and Development Guidelines and the latest revision of the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Proposed Revisions Applicable to All Grades (Preschool through 12th grade):

- The proposed revisions have reduced the *Prepared Graduate Competencies* from 22 to 10 while aligning existing *Grade Level Expectations*. Redundancies across and between grade levels have been reduced.
- The sections within the *Academic Context and Connections* have been changed to *Colorado Essential Skills*, *Essential Questions* and *Essential Reasoning Skills* to create a rich context for literacy learning and its application in other disciplines and authentic situations beyond the classroom. The alignment of the right-hand side of the document illuminates considerations of essential skills, inquiry, and reasoning practices relevant to specific *Prepared Graduate Competencies* and *Grade Level Expectations*.
- The writing expectations have been reorganized to ensure consistent, complex, and varied writing



experiences across all grade levels.

- The committee is proposing to change the name of Standard 4 from *Research and Reasoning* to *Research Inquiry and Design*. This revision allows for clearer expectations and student demonstration of research skills throughout grade levels. In addition, the revision reinforces expectations of student application of reasoning skills into relevant context within the reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research standards.
- Clarification through parenthetical statements is being proposed throughout the document to ensure that stakeholders understand them as possible content considerations, not requirements or limitations.

Proposed Revisions for Preschool through 5th Grade:

- Evidence outcomes for spelling are being proposed to provide for a clearer progression of expected skill proficiency.

Proposed Revisions for Middle School (6th grade through 8th grade):

- No revisions to the 6th through 8th grade standards are being proposed beyond those recommended in the above section for all grades.

Proposed Revisions for High School (9th grade through 12th grade):

- The committee is proposing to band the high school standards into grades 9-10 and 11-12 to provide for greater local flexibility and control of curricular choices. No revisions to the 9th through 12th grade standards are being proposed beyond those recommended in the above section for all grades.

For further detail regarding the standards review and revision process the following resources are available:

- [Review Criteria for High Quality Academic Standards](#): This resource provides a compilation of critical elements needed for high quality state standards.
- [Online feedback system](#): This system enables all Coloradans to review the revisions embedded within the standards and offers commenting capabilities to share feedback directly to the review and revision committees.
- [Complete lists of proposed revisions](#): These spreadsheets outline each revision proposed including a side by side comparison between the current standards and the proposed revision and the rationale for the recommendation.

For more information about the standards review and revision process, please visit:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/casreview>.

For more information about the Reading, Writing, and Communicating committee, please visit:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/cas-committees-rwc>.