

Tennessee Academic Standards for Mathematics

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-311 through 314 lay out a process for transparent and comprehensive reviews of Tennessee Academic Standards in the areas of mathematics, English Language Arts, science, and social studies. These reviews occur at least every six years on a rotating basis and are further codified in State Board Standards Review Policy 3.209. In June 2020, the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission established dates for reviewing and adopting math textbooks at the state level. In order to ensure that math standards and math textbook adoption cycles are in alignment, the State Board began a math standards review cycle in late 2019 in compliance with all steps in law and policy.

The initial standards review public website opened in November 2019. Tennesseans from across the state shared their feedback, resulting in over 30,000 responses. After the data was compiled, it was reviewed by a Standards Development Committee of Tennessee math educators from K-12 and higher education. The educators that comprised these two teams reviewed every individual standard and revised them using the public feedback as well as their own expertise. The revised set of standards was posted for another period of public feedback in May 2020. This round of public feedback generated over 40,000 responses.

The Standards Recommendation Committee (SRC), appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, reviewed the revised standards and public feedback. The SRC used the feedback to guide their final recommendations for additional standards revisions. The SRC approved the new standards at their September 25, 2020 meeting. Standards are included for grades K-8 and the required high school courses of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II (or Integrated Math I, II, and II). Other key changes in the new standards focus on the inclusion of statistical concepts into earlier grades as well as expanding statistics content in high school, streamlining of Algebra II content, and increased clarity and examples for educators.

Minor changes have been made since first reading. Technical changes have been made on several standards to align with committee intentions as well as improve clarity of standards. Two standards were removed from Algebra II that were redundant and intended to only be included in Geometry.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends approval of this item on final reading.