

Ohio's Learning Standards Review Process

The development and review process of Ohio's learning standards and model curriculum are a key component of Ohio's Strategic Plan, *Each Child, Our Future*:

Strategy 4: “Ohio has had standards focused on the foundational knowledge and skills and well-rounded content learning domains. In these two learning domains, the state engages a mix of Ohio-based educators and experts to review and revise the standards.”

“State-level steps should be taken to engage educators, employers and experts in the development of standards and guidelines for what students should be able to demonstrate in the learning domains of leadership and reasoning and social-emotional learning.”

- Ohio's learning standards outline what students should know and be able to do in each subject and grade to be on track for success in college and/or careers once they graduate. The focus of the standards is on knowledge and skills a child should gain.
- Standards are different from curriculum. In Ohio, local school districts select the curriculum to utilize in the classroom. The district's local curriculum outlines *how* schools teach and *what* materials they use.
- It's important for Ohio to review the standards every few years to ensure they:
 - are still suitable for specific grade levels;
 - continue to provide critical knowledge in the subject;
 - still lead to higher student achievement; and
 - still call for teaching the skills that colleges and employers tell us are most important.
- Educator input is critical for periodic updates and revision of the standards and model curriculum.

IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

- Two groups manage the actual development of standards: **Advisory Groups** and **Working Groups**.

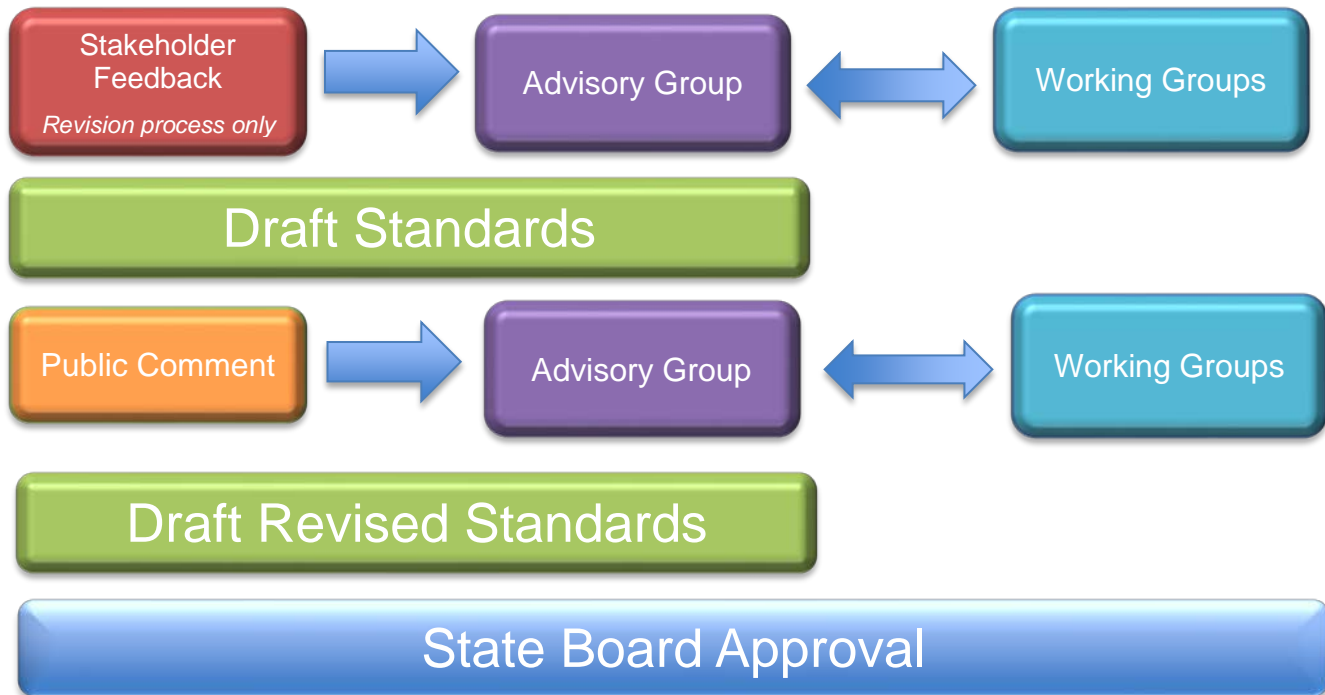
Advisory Group:

- Advisory group membership is by invitation from the department. It is made up of selected members of state level, professional educator organizations in Ohio.
- The advisory group:
 - provides guidance for the scope of work assigned to the working groups;
 - identifies and recommends resources for the working groups to consider;
 - identifies documents including other state, national or international standards to guide the development or revision of standards; and
 - reviews and approves edits to Ohio's Learning Standards in response to the comments and suggestions from the public comment period.
- The advisory group reviews public comments to determine where to focus revision work. Recommendations are made to the working groups and oversees their efforts.

Working Groups:

- The department accepts nominations for Ohio educators to serve on working groups. Individuals may nominate themselves – or a colleague or supervisor may nominate an individual. These groups are made up of experts in their subject areas from throughout the state who have taught at some level from kindergarten through college.
- The working groups write and edit the standards in the development/revision process.
- The working groups propose revisions to the standards based on comments received during the public feedback period.

The following graphic provides a visual for the standards development/review process:

**COLLECTION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING INITIAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

- In the development process, a single public comment period is conducted to collect feedback on the draft standards. The draft standards are revised based on comments received from the public and a review by the advisory group.

COLLECTION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING REVIEW AND REVISION PROCESS

- To begin the periodic review and revision process, the Department creates an initial survey to collect public comments on the standards from educators, parents and community members. The Department heavily promotes the opportunity to give feedback to teachers and school curriculum directors who use the standards for planning and teaching.
- Once the standards are revised, the Department conducts a second survey of the proposed standards revisions. The feedback is carefully reviewed by the advisory and/or working groups to incorporate suggested edits/changes.

Ohio's Model Curriculum Development and Review Process

The process of development and review of Ohio's model curricula is very similar to the process for the development and review of Ohio's learning standards.

Advisory Group:

- The advisory group from the standards revision will also provide guidance and support of the model curriculum.

Working Groups:

- The working groups are comprised of a combination of participants from the standards revision working groups as well as new members. This allows for greater continuity but also provides additional input to the development and/or revision of the model curriculum.

The following graphic provides an overview of the model curriculum development:

